Cover: Milo the kiwi at the Tutukaka Kiwi Release, 2016. Photo: Kiwi Coast: Malcolm Pullman
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Illustration: Heather Hunt
**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The vision of Kiwi Coast is one of thriving wild kiwi, safely roaming throughout Northland, nurtured and cared for by Northlanders.

Kiwi Coast is a community-led collaborative initiative linking conservation projects, iwi and hapu, landowners, farmers, forest management companies, government agencies and schools in the shared vision of increasing kiwi numbers, creating safe ecological corridors and improving the general biodiversity values of Northland.

The Kiwi Coast operates at a landscape scale, linking projects over 291km from Mangawhai at the southern limit of the Northland region to the Aupouri peninsula in the Far North. As of June 2017, 101 entities have linked into the Kiwi Coast, 84 of which are community driven landcare groups. Collectively, these groups and projects carry out pest control over 131,294 hectares.

Kiwi Coast’s priorities are reducing threats to kiwi survival and engaging Northlander’s in caring for their kiwi. Kiwi Coast strategically supports predator control in key areas to link projects and create continuous trapping networks across the landscape that boost kiwi survival and allow their safe dispersal into new areas.

Monitoring results demonstrate the strength of Kiwi Coast’s collaborative approach. Collated trap catch data shows that 169,731 animal pests were caught in traps by groups and projects involved in the Kiwi Coast over the last four years, meaning that over 1000 pests are being removed each week.

Annual kiwi monitoring shows that where good management is in place, populations of Northland brown kiwi are either stable or steadily increasing at almost all sites along the Kiwi Coast. This bucks the national trend identified by the Kiwis for Kiwi Trust in 2014 of a 2% decline per annum in kiwi populations nationwide. As the Kiwi Coast has only been in operation for four years, it does not seek to claim these results as its own success, but rather seeks to ensure the upward trend is sustained.

Community leadership and kaitiakitanga are supported through a range of events, activities and workshops aimed at building capacity through the sharing of skills, information and knowledge. Working together with agriculture, forestry, iwi, government agencies, organisations and schools to support projects from the ground up ensures that a wide range of skills, ideas and resources are available for all those involved in the Kiwi Coast.

The momentum of the Kiwi Coast continues at rapid pace as more and more Northlanders get involved in actively caring for their kiwi and link into the Kiwi Coast.

Defined by the groups and projects linked into it, the Kiwi Coast continues to grow organically into a multi-faceted ecological corridor with kiwi leading the charge as the iconic flag bearer.

A priority of the Kiwi Coast over the next five years is to secure additional resources to ensure that gains made to date in community, iwi and hapu-led kiwi recovery are not only sustained but enabled to grow further.

Working with partners to bring new technology and research to enable predator control and kiwi kaitiakitanga at a regional scale will assist the successful operation of NZ’s first kiwi corridor and ensure that this iconic taonga species is here for generations to come.
Kiwi Coast

Kiwi Coast is a community-led collaborative initiative linking conservation projects, iwi and hapu, landowners, farmers, forest management companies, government agencies and schools in the shared vision of increasing kiwi numbers, creating safe ecological corridors and improving the general biodiversity values of eastern Northland.

The vision of Kiwi Coast is one of thriving kiwi, safely roaming throughout Northland, nurtured and cared for by Northlanders. We are creating New Zealand’s first modern day kiwi corridor.

The Kiwi Coast contributes to New Zealand conservation outcomes by ensuring that Northland brown kiwi do not go extinct nor dwindle to genetically unviable, isolated fragments. Supporting and linking kiwi recovery projects to create thriving kiwi corridors across Northland will secure a genetically viable Northland brown kiwi population ensuring this iconic taonga species is here for generations to come.

Objectives:

To enable and engage Northlander’s in caring for their kiwi.

To provide education, mentoring and support for kiwi recovery.

To celebrate the presence of Northland brown kiwi in Northland as a taonga.

To increase kiwi numbers through predator reduction and good dog control.

To facilitate the safe movement of kiwi throughout the Kiwi Coast.

To encourage kaitiakitanga / stewardship to protect and nurture kiwi for future generations.

Hou the kiwi is released into the Tutukaka Landcare Coalition predator controlled area, 2014.
Photo: Kiwi Coast: Malcolm Pullman
BACKGROUND

In many parts of New Zealand, kiwi continue to decline unless they are behind predator proof fences, on offshore islands, or within fiercely defended ‘sanctuaries’. Northland, however, has a different story. Here, most managed populations of the Northland brown kiwi are not only stable, but steadily increasing. This is largely due to the efforts of community and hapu-led conservation projects, working in partnership with landowners, farmers, iwi/hapu, government agencies, forestry companies, organisations and schools to carry out predator control, and engage dog owners in responsible dog control.

Kiwi Coast began in 2013 with the aim of working collaboratively over approximately 45,000ha to support and link kiwi recovery projects between Bream Head and Sandy Bay. The NZ Landcare Trust was asked to help coordinate the work and assist new community-led conservation projects to form to fill the gap between the Whangarei Heads and Tutukaka Landcare Coalition kiwi strongholds.

However demand from community and iwi-led conservation projects further up Northland’s east coast saw the Kiwi Coast’s geographical reach quickly expand to the Far North. By the end of the first year 32 projects had become involved in the Kiwi Coast. By the end of the third year, this number had more than doubled and the momentum has continued with an exponential growth as further projects, organisations, businesses, iwi and hapu get involved.

In 2013 Robyn Bigelow was devastated to find a dead kiwi on her property on the banks of the Kohinui Stream near Parua Bay. What had killed it? And where had it come from? Kiwi were not known to be in this valley. Quickly she contacted Pete Graham from the Department of Conservation and Todd Hamilton from the Whangarei Heads Landcare Forum (WHLF). Pete showed Robyn the bite marks to the back of the kiwi’s neck – it had been killed by a stoat. Todd’s nearest predator traps were a few kilometres away, so he quickly set up three new mustelid traps at Robyn’s place. But this was outside of the existing trapping network covering the Whangarei Heads peninsula where kiwi numbers were rising steadily. What was the way forward? More and more kiwi could be expected to spill out of the Whangarei Heads peninsula and into untrapped areas beyond. The WHLF couldn’t keep expanding their traplines further and further, but how could these wandering kiwi be kept safe....?
As of November 2017, 101 entities have linked into the Kiwi Coast, 84 of which are community driven landcare groups. The Kiwi Coast operates at a landscape scale, linking projects over 291km from Mangawhai at the southern limit of the Northland region to the Aupouri peninsula in the Far North.

Collectively, groups and projects involved in the Kiwi Coast actively manage 131,294 hectares (Map 1).

While the focus of Kiwi Coast is on kiwi, noticeably, there has also been a multiplier effect. Once groups gain confidence and skills from kiwi recovery based pest control and monitoring, they quickly turn their attention to other biodiversity restoration goals. While kiwi often remain the iconic goal, groups are also involved in a multitude of other activities such as pateke recovery, forest health, weed control, kauri dieback prevention, reintroductions of threatened species such as robins, forest fencing and riparian planting, etc.

The ‘can-do’, action-on-the-ground, community led style of the Kiwi Coast has engaged the hearts and minds of many Northlanders, inspiring and motivating more and more communities and hapu to get involved and look after “their patch” and “their kiwi”.

Spot the kiwi chick. Photo: Backyard Kiwi

Tiaki the kiwi at Tutukaka kiwi release. Photo: Kiwi Coast: Malcolm Pullman
As the number of entities linked into the Kiwi Coast is constantly growing, a live list of the projects and organisations involved and a regularly updated map can be found on the Kiwi Coast website at www.kiwicoast.org.nz.
KIWI COAST TRUST

In 2017 Kiwi Coast formed a charitable trust to provide a legal entity to assist with administration and financial management. Decision making is carried out collaboratively through the Kiwi Coast Think Tank which meets quarterly and consists of 15 individuals experienced in ecological restoration, on-the-ground kiwi recovery and community/iwi based conservation.

The Think Tank includes members from the Bream Head Conservation Trust, Whangarei Heads Landcare Forum, Taurikura Ridge Landcare, Ngati Wai Trust Board, Queen Elizabeth II National Trust, Tutukaka Landcare Coalition, Pataua North Landcare, Bay of Islands Catchment Community Pest Control Area, Whangarei District Council, Northland Regional Council, Hancock Forest Management, Kiwis for Kiwi Trust, NorthTec, Department of Conservation and the NZ Landcare Trust.

The Kiwi Coast also has paid Coordinators who work to connect the multitude of initiatives, projects and individuals involved, by assisting with communications, supporting strategic development and momentum, and keeping the Kiwi Coast project strong and dynamic.

Ngaire Tyson, Kiwi Coast Coordinator, at Pataua North Landcare Kiwi Release 2017. Photo: Anne Stewart
Role of the Kiwi Coast Trust

The key role of the Kiwi Coast Trust is to sustain and enable community led pest control for kiwi recovery.

The Kiwi Coast Trust will:

- Support and link groups with a dedicated Kiwi Coast Coordinator to ensure projects are sustained and enabled.
- Assist and mentor new groups to form and administer the New Landcare Groups Start Up Fund.
- Link and connect existing projects to maximise efficiencies and biodiversity gains.
- Engage positively with dog owners to improve dog control.
- Provide capacity building workshops to ensure communities are carrying out projects to their full potential (e.g. Regional Pest Control Workshops, Local Trapper Training Workshops).
- Support and assist with kiwi engagement, education and advocacy (Live Kiwi Events, Caring for Kiwi Workshops, Kiwi Releases, School Visits etc).
- Provide support and mentoring for paid professional predator trappers to ensure they remain inspired, motivated and upskilled in new technology and techniques.
- Manage trapper contracts where appropriate.
- Administer Special Community Pest Control Areas such as Kiwi Link and Mid North Alliance.
- Work with agencies and organisations to coordinate and collate monitoring data across the Kiwi Coast to demonstrate the benefits of a landscape scale approach.
- Secure additional resources to help sustain community-led kiwi recovery and bring in new technology and research opportunities.
CREATING NEW ZEALAND’S FIRST KIWI CORRIDOR

Northland brown kiwi are found in many parts of the Kiwi Coast, at varying population densities. It is estimated that unmanaged kiwi populations (ie without predator control) decline at a rate of 6% per year (Conning and Miller, 1999).

The need for kiwi corridors in Northland was identified in 2006 by Pierce et al. who stated that kiwi corridors were an “urgent requirement because it is particularly important to ensure that locally viable populations of kiwi are retained in Northland.” The establishment of corridors between managed sites of Northland brown kiwi was also identified as a high priority in the Taxon Plan for Northland brown kiwi as per Objectives 6.4, 7.1, 8.2. (Craig et al., 2011).

The first focus area of the Kiwi Coast is the connection of two separate high density kiwi populations at Tutukaka and Whangarei Heads where Northland brown kiwi populations are stable and steadily increasing (as indicated by over ten years of kiwi call count survey data).

As their numbers increase to high densities at managed sites, kiwi need to be able to disperse safely into new areas or join nearby populations. Image: M & M Hunt, 2017

This will create NZ’s first modern day kiwi corridor and reconnect populations so they can roam and breed throughout their historic home range.
PREDATOR CONTROL

The Kiwi Coast focuses on predator control to ensure kiwi not only survive, but can thrive in healthy populations. In non-predator controlled areas, research has shown that stoats and cats kill approximately 94% of Northland brown kiwi chicks before they reach their first birthday. However, once kiwi reach 1 kg in weight they are capable of fighting off most predators apart from ferrets and dogs (Robertson, et. al., 2016).

Northland brown kiwi should have a life expectancy of 50-65 years. In Northland, the average lifespan of kiwi has been reduced to 14 years due to kiwi being killed by dogs. (Craig, et al., 2011). As dog control is inherently a human issue the engagement of dog owners with their kiwi is a priority. The Kiwi Coast takes a positive approach to encourage dog owners to control their dogs and ensure they are not free to wander.

Kiwi Coast strategically supports predator control in key areas to link projects and create continuous trapping networks across the landscape that boost kiwi survival and allow their safe dispersal into new areas.

As part of its monitoring program, Kiwi Coast collates trap catch data from all the projects involved each year. The results not only demonstrate the sheer hard work and scale of effort, but also generate a sense of pride and mana in the work being done and the results achieved. It helps to show that individually, groups are achieving great results, but together they are achieving something truly phenomenal. The collective results show the undeniable value in working together towards the common cause of removing animal pests that number in their tens of thousands and know no boundaries.

In 2017, groups and projects involved in the Kiwi Coast collectively carried out pest control over 131,294ha, reducing predators that threaten kiwi survival and destroy native forests. From 2013 – 2016, 169,731 animal pests were caught in traps by groups and projects involved in the Kiwi Coast. Ideally, in time the actual numbers of pests being destroyed will decrease as the number of hectares receiving pest control increases.
STRATEGIC APPROACH

The vision of the Kiwi Coast is spreading quickly and the number of projects that wish to be involved is likewise growing steadily. To turn the dream into reality, and achieve its goals, the Kiwi Coast requires a clear strategic approach.

Kiwi Coast does not approach landowners seeking access for trapping sites, nor does Kiwi Coast directly manage any individual project areas. In the interests of long term sustainability Kiwi Coast supports and links new and existing community-led projects and gives assistance where invited to do so. Supporting community leaders to coordinate pest control and kiwi recovery in their areas ensures projects retain autonomy and helps each individual project continue long into the future.

Long term success at a landscape scale will best be achieved by encouraging linkages at three scales:

1. Landowner to landowner => creating new Landcare/community groups
2. Landcare group to Landcare group => creating entities that coordinate a number of local projects and create additional biodiversity strongholds
3. Stronghold to stronghold => creating corridors between strongholds

These approaches will be continuously replicated throughout the Kiwi Coast wherever landowners and land managers are willing and wish to be part of the Kiwi Coast.

However, the third scale of linkage will require considerable effort to be achieved. With this in mind, two focus areas are being targeted – the first on the east coast of Whangarei and the second in the Bay of Islands. Over time, as lessons are learnt and gains are made, efforts at this scale will be extended further.

The Kiwi Coast is committed to the following:

- Building capacity and capability across Northland’s community-led conservation projects to sustain the current upward trend of kiwi populations.
- Re-establish natural kiwi corridors through the development of linked collaborative predator trapping and social networks.
- Maintaining a high level of communication to celebrate kiwi as a taonga and engage further communities, iwi and hapu in caring for kiwi.
- Holding live kiwi events and skill building workshops to empower active kaitakitanga /stewardship to protect and nurture Northland’s biodiversity for future generations.
- Exploring new ways of resourcing community-led conservation.
- Building the resource capacity of the Kiwi Coast towards financial sustainability.

Table 1 shows the Kiwi Coast Key Performance Indicators and Outcomes that will track progress towards achievement of these goals.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Objective</th>
<th>Key performance indicators (KPIs)</th>
<th>Source of measure</th>
<th>Expected outcome</th>
<th>Baseline information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Northland brown kiwi populations in eastern Northland are increasing.</td>
<td>An overall upwards trend of kiwi populations in managed sites on the Kiwi Coast.</td>
<td>Annual Kiwi Call Count Survey.</td>
<td>Increased kiwi population.</td>
<td>Over 10 years of Annual Kiwi Call Count Survey data.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northland brown kiwi populations are linked via safe kiwi corridors.</td>
<td>Northland brown kiwi are moving between separate populations.</td>
<td>Telemetry monitoring of transmitted kiwi. Or use of Celium technology to monitor kiwi movement. Possible DNA monitoring as techniques and expense allows.</td>
<td>Kiwi tracked moving safely through and between project areas.</td>
<td>Existing telemetry data. DOC dead kiwi database.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community, iwi/hapu-led conservation projects are linked through the Kiwi Coast.</td>
<td>Numbers of community, iwi/hapu-led conservation projects participating in the Kiwi Coast.</td>
<td>Tally of number of entities involved.</td>
<td>Community-led projects work together towards the shared vision of building NZ’s first kiwi corridor.</td>
<td>No. of projects involved tallied since Year 1.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Animal pest populations are reduced by landscape scale predator trapping networks.</td>
<td>Animal pests in eastern Northland are being actively controlled.</td>
<td>Annual collation of trap catch data. Hectares under pest control.</td>
<td>Kiwi populations increase and can disperse safely into new areas</td>
<td>Annual collation of pest control results and hectares under pest control since 2013.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community and iwi/hapu have the skills and resources needed to engage in biodiversity stewardship / kaitiakitanga to the full extent they wish.</td>
<td>Capacity and skill building workshops are held upon request of communities.</td>
<td>Number of skill building workshops held. Number of people attending Kiwi Coast supported workshops and events. Number of people involved in groups and projects linked into Kiwi Coast’</td>
<td>Communities, iwi and hapu are actively involved in biodiversity stewardship / kaitiakitanga and achieve successful outcomes.</td>
<td>Number of workshops held recorded since 2013. Kiwi Coast Indicator species monitoring program baseline data.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kiwi Coast has a financial mechanism in place to generate independent income.</td>
<td>Financial mechanisms developed and generating income.</td>
<td>Amount of funds being generated.</td>
<td>Kiwi Coast has an independent income stream to help sustain community-led kiwi recovery.</td>
<td>Kiwi Coast Annual Reports.</td>
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Focus Area 1: Establishing a Whangarei Heads – Tutukaka kiwi corridor

Focus Area 1 establishes the first kiwi corridor, by linking the two established biodiversity strongholds of Whangarei Heads and Tutukaka.

With support from Northland Regional Council and Kiwi Coast, nine projects in eastern Whangarei are working together as ‘Kiwi Link’ over approximately 13,624ha to restore biodiversity, rebuild kiwi populations and provide a predator controlled area for kiwi dispersing out of Whangarei Heads or Tutukaka.

This will be achieved by:

- Ensuring the Whangarei Heads and Tutukaka strongholds are sustained and operating at peak potential.
- Supporting and enabling the Kiwi Link Community Pest Control Area (CPCA) between the strongholds to complete a continuous predator trapping network between Tutukaka and Whangarei Heads.
- Build pest control skills and capacity to enable landowner stewardship via provision of workshops, mentoring and technical advice.

- Provide opportunities for engagement with kiwi.
- Assist with monitoring and communication.
- Work with local agencies to enforce dog control rules and encourage responsible dog ownership.

Map 3: Focus Area 1 - New predator traps added between Whangarei Heads and Tutukaka to create the first kiwi corridor

Kiwi Link Groups 2017
Focus Area 2: Mid North – Bay of Islands to Eastern Hokianga

The second focus area is centred on the Bay of Islands. The multitude of community and hapu-led conservation projects here are beginning to work collaboratively through the Mid North Alliance whose establishment has been supported by Kiwi Coast and the Department of Conservation.

Through the Mid North Alliance, there is potential to link predator trapping areas into networks that will benefit not only kiwi but other endangered species such as kokako.

This will be achieved by:
- Supporting the Mid North - Bay of Islands Area with a dedicated Coordinator
- Encouraging and supporting the formation of new community-led conservation projects in the area.
- Providing opportunities for networking and capacity building such as local trapper workshops.
- Assisting with monitoring and coordination.
- Working with local agencies to enforce dog control rules and encourage responsible dog ownership.

Map 4: Focus Area 2 - Existing predator traps and community projects in the Bay of Islands area.
SUSTAINING AND RESOURCING KIWI COAST

Kiwi Coast is lean and efficient – with the bulk of resources going directly to on the ground work.

Collated financial data shows that $1.76 million worth of resources went into kiwi recovery and pest control on the Kiwi Coast in the 2015/16 financial year. Over a third of this, or $618,750, was supplied by the groups and projects themselves in the form of voluntary unpaid labour. Collating data such as this across the Kiwi Coast helps to recognize the sheer scale and volume of the work being done and the resources required to effect species recovery at a landscape scale. Further, recognising the often over-looked value of unpaid labour helps to champion this key element of many New Zealand conservation projects.

Typical Kiwi Coast Operating Costs

Based on data from the Kiwi Coast 2016 Annual Report

- Predator control - traps and paid trapping: 50%
- Kiwi Coast Coordination: 19%
- Monitoring: 14%
- Workshops and events: 9%
- Communication: 8%
- Workshops and events: 9%
ENABLING COMMUNITY, IWI/HAPU-LED KIWI CARE

The Kiwi Coast ensures that community and iwi/hapu-led pest control and kiwi recovery can grow and flourish throughout Northland.

Working together with agriculture, forestry, iwi, government agencies, organisations and schools to support projects from the ground up ensures that a wide range of skills, ideas and resources are available for all those involved in the Kiwi Coast.

Participation in inter-agency forums such as the Northland Biodiversity Forum, and in stakeholder groups such as the Northland Kiwi Forum Working Group, assists with the efficient use of resources, sharing of data, and ability to access the considerable scientific knowledge and skills available from a wide spectrum of sources.

Community leadership and kaitiakitanga is supported through a range of events, activities and workshops aimed at building capacity through the sharing of skills, information and knowledge.

This involves supporting Approved Kiwi Handlers to take kiwi into schools within the first focus area of the Kiwi Coast, holding ‘Live Kiwi Experiences’, supporting kiwi releases at approved sites and assisting with translocations of kiwi into predator controlled areas to increase small, isolated populations to boost genetic diversity.

The Kiwi Coast Coordinators support and promote community-led kiwi recovery at numerous events, workshops and A&P shows each year. Presentations are also given at a number of community group meetings and AGMs, government departments, Forums and scientific societies.

Kiwi Coast also maintains active communication via a website, regular electronic newsletter and social media.

Ngati Manuhiri gift kiwi to Ngati Hau at the Tanekaha Kiwi Release, 2016. Photo: Kiwi Coast: Malcolm Pullman
ENGAGING HEARTS AND MINDS

Over 2000 people attend Kiwi Coast supported events each year, proving that kiwi are powerful ambassadors for conservation. Translocations of kiwi into established predator controlled sites on the Kiwi Coast provide opportunities for the public to see wild kiwi up close before they are released. Winning the hearts and minds of everyone they meet, close encounters with wild kiwi continue to inspire new people to actively engage in kaitiakitanga / stewardship and motivate existing projects to keep going.

The ongoing monitoring of a handful of kiwi 'dads' via radio telemetry at the Whangarei Kiwi Sanctuary, Whangarei Heads, Tutukaka, Tanekaha, Brynderwys and Pataua North also means that stories, news and updates on the real life and times of wild kiwi living in people’s ‘backyards’ can be shared and celebrated, helping communities to deepen their understanding of kiwi needs, behavior and threats.

Kiwi Coast supports and promotes live kiwi events as a key means of inspiring and motivating kiwi katiakitanga. The Kiwi Coast also maintains a constant communication stream to a wide and diverse audience through an integrated array of printed and online media, events, workshops, forums and project visits.

Kiwi Coast communications and events aim to:

- Engage people in actively caring for kiwi.
- Share knowledge, information and technical advice.
- Build acceptance of animal pest control practices required to protect kiwi.
- Positively encourage good dog control.
- Link, motivate and inspire communities via sharing project stories and successes.
- Celebrate kiwi as a taonga.

In effect, it is the kiwi themselves that are their own best ambassadors. The Kiwi Coast simply lends a hand as they quietly lead the way, inspiring action, motivating change and leading the charge up the Kiwi Coast.

Accredited Kiwi Handler Todd Hamilton holds Hou the kiwi at the Tutukaka Kiwi Release, 2014. Photo: Kiwi Coast, Malcolm Pullman

Lesley and Tohu tracking kiwi at Mahinepua, May 2015.
RESULTS AND MONITORING

Kiwi Coast is underpinned by a robust scientific monitoring framework that ensures accurate measurement of outcomes. The Kiwi Coast’s ‘Kiwi Monitoring Plan’ (Topia, 2014) is based on best practice kiwi monitoring protocols developed by the Department of Conservation, including annual kiwi call counts and the use of Kiwi Listening Devices.

In 2014 the Kiwis for Kiwi Trust reported a national trend of 2% decline per annum in kiwi populations. As per previous years, analysis of the 2016 Northland kiwi call count data demonstrated that kiwi populations are generally stable or increasing at almost all sites managed for pest control on the Kiwi Coast (Craig and Topia, 2017).

The Kiwi Coast works with the Department of Conservation (DOC) each year to encourage, support and coordinate groups to carry out annual Kiwi Call Count Monitoring. The data is analysed by DOC in the annual ‘Northland Kiwi Call Count Report’ (available on the Kiwi Coast website at www.kiwicoast.org.nz/kiwi-resources).

“...The general pattern of a slow and steady increase for the 12 original listening stations on the Kiwi Coast listened from since 1995 is positive, and is very likely a reflection of the extensive kiwi protection effort that has already been happening throughout this area. As the Kiwi Coast project gathers and maintains momentum, this pattern is likely to intensify, particularly in the areas that have been identified as linkages...”

(Craig, 2013).

Over 20 years of Kiwi Call Count data shows kiwi numbers are either stable or increasing on the Kiwi Coast (Craig and Topia, 2017).
Pest control carried out by groups and projects involved in the Kiwi Coast will have flow on benefits to wider biodiversity. In order to document the recovery or establishment of species other than kiwi, an Indicator Species Monitoring Program has been initiated by the Kiwi Coast in partnership with NorthTec Conservation Management tutors and students and the Department of Conservation. The indicator species selected include pateke, kaka and bellbird.

Table 2: Kiwi Coast Monitoring Measures and Methods

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Measure</th>
<th>Method</th>
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<tr>
<td>Distribution of Northland brown kiwi populations</td>
<td>• Use Department of Conservation Northland brown kiwi distribution map</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Deployment of Kiwi Listening Devices to investigate reports of new sites</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• 5 yearly ‘Kiwi Listening Blitzs’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Estimation of number of adult Northland brown kiwi</td>
<td>• Independent analysis of annual Kiwi Call Count data – Kiwi Coast Call Count Report</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Significant species presence and movement</td>
<td>• Indicator Species Monitoring:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Pateke Annual Flock Counts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Bellbird</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Kaka</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number and type of animal pests destroyed annually</td>
<td>• Annual coordination of ‘Shared Pest Results Data’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total area in hectares receiving animal pest control</td>
<td>• Annual collation of area under management by each group in ha</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of community-led conservation initiatives involved</td>
<td>• Annual tally of initiatives</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number and type of capacity building workshops</td>
<td>• Annual tally of workshops</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of people attending events, workshops etc</td>
<td>• Coordination of workshop registration forms and head counts at events</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communications Reach</td>
<td>• No. of newsletter recipients</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• No. of Facebook ‘likes’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Average no. of website hits/month</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• No. of published media articles</td>
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Monitoring results are presented in the Kiwi Coast annual report in July each year.
COLLABORATION AND PARTNERSHIP

Over the last 20 years agencies and organisations including the NZ Landcare Trust, Northland Regional Council, QEII National Trust, Department of Conservation and Kiwis for Kiwi Trust have strongly supported and championed community and hapu led pest control and kiwi recovery in Northland.

The Kiwi Coast has emerged from this strong foundation, taking the next step of linking individual projects to create continuous trapping networks and operate at a landscape scale unrivalled anywhere else in New Zealand.

In 2013, Kiwi Coast partnered with the Reconnecting Northland Programme (RN) and became its first pilot project. Support from RN Delivery Partners WWF-NZ and NZ Landcare Trust and funding from the Tindall Foundation and Foundation North provided a firm base of support over the first four years of Kiwi Coast.

As the Kiwi Coast enters its fifth year of operation, it takes the next step of consolidating its strong working relationship with the Northland Regional Council into a partnership.

Working together, Kiwi Coast and NRC can ensure gains made to date are not lost and the momentum can successfully continue. Working in unity will also allow both Kiwi Coast and NRC to leverage further funding and implement a strategically coordinated regional approach.

Matakohe-Limestone Island Ranger Bernie Buhler with Bernie the kiwi at Tutukaka Kiwi Release, 2015. Photo: Kiwi Coast: Malcolm Pullman
The momentum of the Kiwi Coast continues at rapid pace as more and more Northlanders get involved in actively caring for their kiwi and link into the Kiwi Coast.

Each new project that links in, not only expands the geographic area of the Kiwi Coast, but also adds its unique flavour to the rich collective mix of understanding, ideas and culture.

Defined by the groups and projects linked into it, the Kiwi Coast continues to grow organically into a multi-faceted ecological corridor with kiwi leading the charge as the iconic flag bearer.

The task ahead for the Kiwi Coast is to maintain momentum and strategic direction to ensure the continued wise use of resources that will most benefit Northland brown kiwi and ensure communities, iwi and hapu are firmly in the driving seat of New Zealand’s first kiwi corridor.

The formation of the Kiwi Coast Trust provides an entity to enable strategic partnerships to be formed with like-minded organisations and sponsors to allow the work of Kiwi Coast to continue.

If you are interested in being involved with the work of Kiwi Coast or discussing coming on board as a partner/sponsor please contact the Kiwi Coast Coordinator (details on inside cover).
REFERENCES


Direct funders and sponsors

Northland Regional Council
Gilbert PEST TRAPS
NZ LANDCARE TRUST
Reconnecting Northland

Collaborating organisations and companies

Department of Conservation Te Papa Atawhai
Hancock Forest Management
Kiwi NORTH
Kiwi for Kiwi
Living Water
Ngatiwai Trust Board
Northland Forest Managers
North Tec Tai Tokerau Whangārama
QEI National Trust OpenSpace New Zealand Ngā Kaiwhakapapa
Rayonier Mātārīki
Volunteering Northland
Whangarei District Council

WWF