

TĀNGARO TUIA TE ORA ENDANGERED SPECIES FOUNDATION

Impact Report



He Mihi Nui ki a Koutou Katoa

This year has been full of many collaborative successes for Tāngaro Tuia te Ora, the Endangered Species Foundation.

Thanks to the unwavering support of our community — from monthly supporters who sustain our daily work, to major donors who enable us to elevate priority projects, to the trusts and foundations who believe in our kaupapa — we have achieved significant milestones in protecting the most endangered species of Aotearoa.

To our board members and advisors who share their expertise, networks, and passion to guide our strategic direction; to our project partners who collaborate with us on the ground; to iwi and hapū who lead restoration efforts with mātauranga Māori at the centre; and to every individual who signs petitions, shares our stories and has a voice for te taiao — ngā mihi nui ki a koutou — thank you to you all.

Our resources might be limited, but the heart and the passion for what we do is immense.

Your support has enabled us to:

- Protect the future of our most endangered bird, the tara iti, through both conservation support and advocacy to stop sandmining where these small manu live, nest and feed
- Launch a nationwide freshwater restoration project for urban communities, through our Awhi Awa | Embrace a Stream project
- Amplify protection efforts for Māui and Hector's dolphins and collaborate with key organisations nationwide
- Support the Tairāwhiti Ngutukākā project to run the first Ngutukākā Festival and plant thousands of these endangered plants.

Together, we are drawing attention to our most endangered species and actively enabling revival and restoration across whenua, freshwater, and marine ecosystems. This is the power of united action, and this is just the beginning.

Kia kaha, kia māia, kia manawanui Be strong, be brave, be steadfast

Tawera Nikau, Co-Chair

Tāngaro Tuia te Ora Endangered Species Foundation Emma Giesen, Co-Chair

Tāngaro Tuia te Ora

Endangered Species Foundation

Table of Contents

01

He Mihi Nui Kia a Koutou 03

Kaupapa | Our Mission 06

Tara Iti | NZ Fairy Tern

10

Awhi Awa | Embrace a Stream 14

Māui and Hector's Dolphins 18

Tairāwhiti Ngutukākā

20

Financial Sustainability 22

Uniting Talents | Our People 24

Looking Ahead

Kaupapa

Our Mission

We convene, collaborate, create, communicate and resource positive change for Aotearoa's endangered species and their habitats.

The issue

Currently, New Zealand is facing a biodiversity crisis:

- Over 7500 species are at risk of extinction
- Of these, 800 are listed by the Department of Conservation (DOC) as being at a high risk of extinction.
- Only 25% of these high-risk species are currently able to be actively managed by the DOC.

Aotearoa is famous for its uniqueness and we have a long history of working to protect our natural heritage. But even though considerable effort is being made, it is not enough.

How we create change

We support high-priority conservation projects that protect the most vulnerable indigenous species and habitats in Aotearoa from extinction.

We achieve this by:

- Working with local communities and supporting Māori-led initiatives, to enable conservation outcomes
- · Collaborating and campaigning with partner organisations
- Resourcing positive change for projects
- Inspiring and motivating action by sharing practical tools and stories of change, enabling people to engage.



Our Strategy

Reigniting Survival through Revival

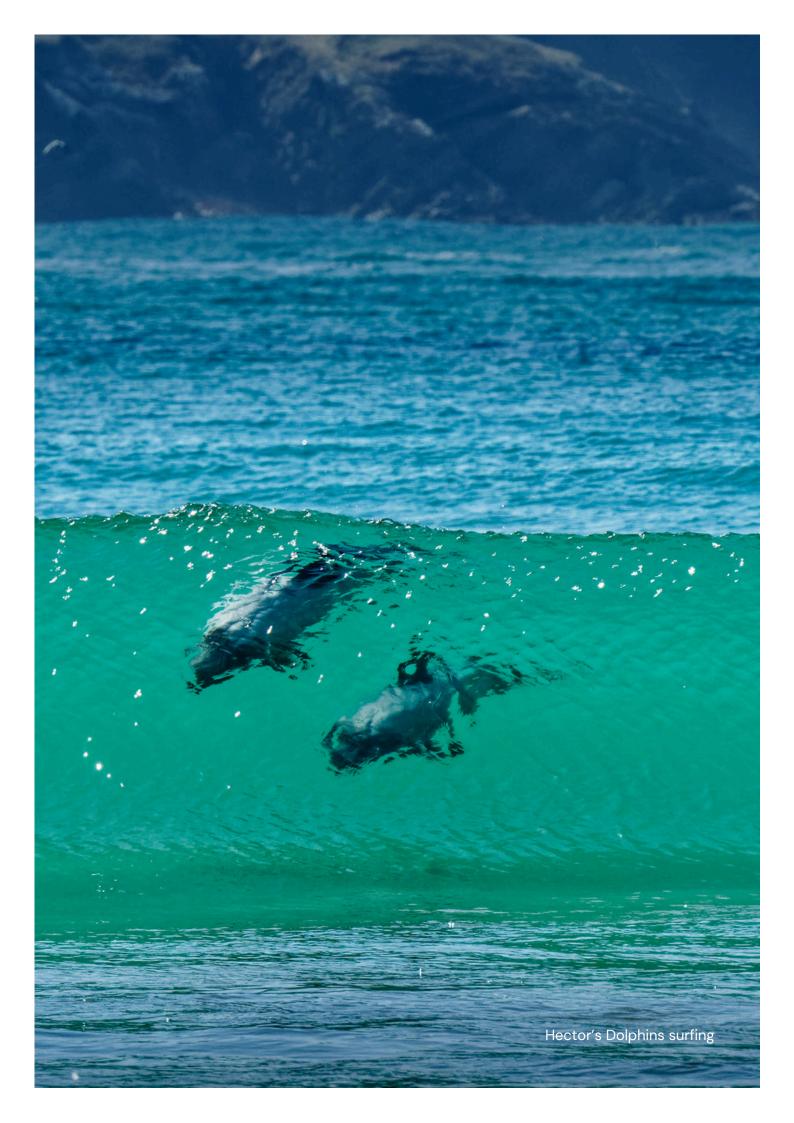
Our mission to enable and resource positive change for Aotearoa's endangered species and their habitats is built upon five guiding principles:

- Māori-led restoration that honours indigenous knowledge,
- saving endangered species through direct intervention,
- habitat restoration addressing root causes of decline,
- · advocacy for policy change, and
- empowerment that builds community capacity for conservation.

Our strategy focuses on three key areas. Leadership encompasses governance, Māori and community-led initiatives, and advocacy measured through policy change and impact reports.

Projects include Awhi Awa stream restoration, Māui and Hector's dolphin support, and Tara iti recovery, tracked through restoration statistics and engagement levels. Financial sustainability ensures long-term impact through diversified funding, partnerships, and planning, measured by increased project resourcing and yearly financial analysis.

STRATEGIC POU	PRIORITIES	IMPACT MEASURES
LEADERSHIP	Co-governanceMāori and community ledAdvocacyPartnerships	Lead by examplePolicy changeImpact reports
PROJECTS	 Awhi Awa Embrace a Stream Māui and Hector's Dolphins Tara iti - NZ Fairy Tern 	Restoration statisticsEngagement levelsStories of change
FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY	FundersSupportersPartnerships	Increase project resourcingBreak-even yearly



Project Impacts

Tara Iti | NZ Fairy Tern

Protecting Our Rarest Bird

With less than 50 left, tara iti are one of the world's most endangered manu (birds). These tiny birds, who have chicks the size of bumble bees, nest and feed on the east coast of the North Island between Pakiri and Waipū where there is ongoing and proposed sand mining.

Coordinated resistance to the continued mining at Mangawhai and Pakiri, and the fast track proposal to mine Te Akau, Bream Bay, has united communities in opposition, all along this coast.

From the 14,000 signatures delivered to Parliament by Co-Chair Tāwera Nikau, to the boat protest at Bream Bay where over 50 vessels took to the water, to signs and hundreds of people turning out at meetings and in public protest at Ruakākā - the message is clear - our coastlines are not quarries.

Key Achievements

- A record number of 16 tara iti chicks fledged this season, bringing total population to approximately 50 birds.
- Funded replica eggs at critical nesting sites for the tara iti breeding programme run by DOC and Auckland Zoo.
- Verbal and oral submissions made to oppose the Fast Track Bill
- Supported Te Whānau o Pakiri in their legal challenge to oppose McCallum Bros Ltd's continued mining of Pakiri.
- 14,000+ petition signatures opposing destructive sand mining at Te Ākau Bream Bay
- Collaboration with local communities to mount sustained, visible opposition to sandmining in this region.
- Reports developed for economic analysis and sand alternatives reports
- Featured media across national platforms including TV1, RNZ, Stuff, NZ Herald, Waatea, 1ZB and local publications.





From the Brink of Extinction to Hope

In January, when storms battered the Waipū coast, two precious tara iti chicks were feared lost forever. For our most endangered bird—with fewer than 40 individuals remaining—every single life matters. But then came the miracle: both chicks were spotted alive and well, their tiny wings carrying the hopes of an entire species.

By May 2025, the incredible had happened. DOC rangers and volunteers recorded 50 individual tara iti—including 13 new fledglings from the summer breeding season. From near-extinction to 50 birds represents one of Aotearoa's greatest conservation rehabilitation stories, made possible by the dedicated mahi of DOC staff, volunteers, Auckland Zoo's captive breeding programme, and supporters like you who fund replica eggs and our education programme to help keep nests safe over summer.

Behind the scenes at Auckland Zoo, staff monitor, incubate, hatch and hand-rear chicks for wild release. Following their release and growth from chicks to juveniles, satellite tracking shows these young birds making westward migrations to the coast—exactly the natural behaviour we hope to see.

This conservation triumph unfolds against a backdrop of unprecedented community resistance to sand mining. When McCallum Bros proposed expanding their seabed mining operations from Pakiri to Te Ākau Bream Bay for another 35 years local communities rose up in defiance.

Hundreds have put up signs, distributed flyers, spelt out SAY NO at Ruakākā beach, and over 50 boats took to the water in protest, their flotilla a powerful symbol of opposition from tāngata whenua, and coastal communities.

Petition signatures have also poured in and Co-Chair Tāwera Nikau delivered the 14,000 strong petition to Parliament. Alongside this, Ngāti Manuhiri have been awarded \$450,000 in costs after successfully challenging McCallum Bros' application to continue mining Pakiri.

These beaches aren't just sand—they're the nurseries where our rarest bird fights for survival and the precious places all our ocean life deserves to thrive.

Every nest matters. Every bird counts.

Have you seen a tara iti? Email taraiti@doc.govt.nz with when, where and what you saw.

Help us protect their nesting sites by supporting our campaign. Together, we can ensure these tiny wings carry our hopes for generations to come.

www.endangeredspecies.org.nz/donatetara-iti



Awhi Awa | Embrace a Stream

Restoring Freshwater Habitats

Empowering Communities to Care for Urban Waterways

From drains on construction sites in Auckland, to streams in small Waikato towns, from early learning centres to retirement villages, Awhi Awa | Embrace a Stream has sparked a nationwide movement for freshwater restoration in urban communities, that can reconnect people with our waterways across the generations.

What began as a simple idea—that every drain is actually a stream waiting to be healed—has grown into a network of communities taking action for our most endangered freshwater species. With educational kete now distributed from Te Tai Tokerau in the far north, to Cromwell in Ōtakou, people are learning about our most endangered freshwater fish species, proving that restoration happens one tap, one drain, one stream at a time, and that together, every day we can all do something to make a difference.

Key Achievements

- Evolved project name to Awhi Awa to reflect the restoration and care of waterways; 'awhi' means to embrace, support, and nurture, capturing the spirit of connection and stewardship.
- Launched Awhi Awa kete in hard copy and online for tuna and koaro (native fish).
- Published online map to track and showcase national uptake.
- Kete for Māui and Hector's dolphins produced,
- Kanakana (lamprey) resources underway in collaboration with Hokonui Rūnanga.
- Delivered workshops to care home residents, tamariki in schools, early childhood centres, and community groups.
- Built partnerships with Go Eco EnviroSchools, BUPA, NZ Landcare Trust, WAI Wanaka, Sustainable Business Network, Naylor Love, Hayes Common, iwi groups, and local and regional authorities.



Awhi Awa | Embrace a Stream Kete of Resources

76% of our native freshwater fish are either threatened with or at risk of extinction. You can help turn things around in your local community by buying an Awhi Awa kete of resources and help create safe habitats for our most endangered freshwater species. Each kete includes education materials and ways for your community to take action to protect and restore water ecosystems.

Every Awhi Awa kete includes:

- Information on how to awhi an awa and embrace a stream.
- Education material about freshwater ika (fish)
- Access to resources in te reo Māori and English
- Presentation for kura, businesses and community
- Education modules for classrooms
- Signage made of scrap stainless steel of the koaro (fish) or tuna (long-fin eel)
- Concrete drill and screws.
- Video on how to apply signage.
- Subscription to our newsletter

Everyone can make a difference at home and in their communities by monitoring what goes into the sink, ensuring that only rain goes down the drain, and taking care of an urban drain or a stream by purchasing our toolkit: www.endangeredspecies.org.nz/awhi-awa





Workshops Enable Stream Care Across Generations

During Conservation Week
Tāngaro Tuia te Ora, the
Endangered Species
Foundation, held workshops at
Mystery Creek, to engage Bupa
residents and tamariki
(children) from four Waikato
schools about how to care for
waterways and awhi an awa –
embrace a stream.

Tamariki, from Tamahere, Ohaupo, Rukuhia, and Kaipaki schools, learned about the vital role local streams and rivers play in supporting Aotearoa's endangered freshwater species and how their everyday actions can help restore waterways. The Awhi Awa project teaches how drains lead directly to the larger waterways, and how what goes into drains will eventually end up in our lakes, rivers and sea, increasing the threat to native species.

A unique aspect of the workshops was the intergenerational knowledge shared by Bupa residents, who contributed their personal stories and historical knowledge of the local rivers and lakes.

These stories helped the tamariki understand the importance of preserving Aotearoa's waterways for the future generations.

The workshop was part of a larger initiative called the "Junior Landscape Programme" that has recently been launched by the NZ Landcare Trust and is also sponsored by Bupa. Their mission is to reach out to the younger generation and raise awareness about the poor state of Aotearoa's freshwater systems, which is critical with approximately 45% of waterways in poor health and 76% of our freshwater fish endangered.

Reflecting on the success of the workshops, General Manager Natalie Jessup says,

"It was lovely to witness the exchange of knowledge between the elderly and the young. The enthusiasm of the tamariki, combined with the experiences shared by the Bupa residents, made this a really beautiful experience. We are excited to see the youthful energy translate into action as these schools care for streams in their communities."

Tāngaro Tuia te Ora would like to extend its heartfelt thanks to Bupa, the NZ Landcare Trust, and Mystery Creek for their support in making this initiative possible. Through the collective efforts of all involved, meaningful progress can be made in addressing the troubled states of our waterways and protecting the endangered species that depend on them.



Māui and Hector's Dolphins

Protecting Marine Taonga

Saving Endangered Species

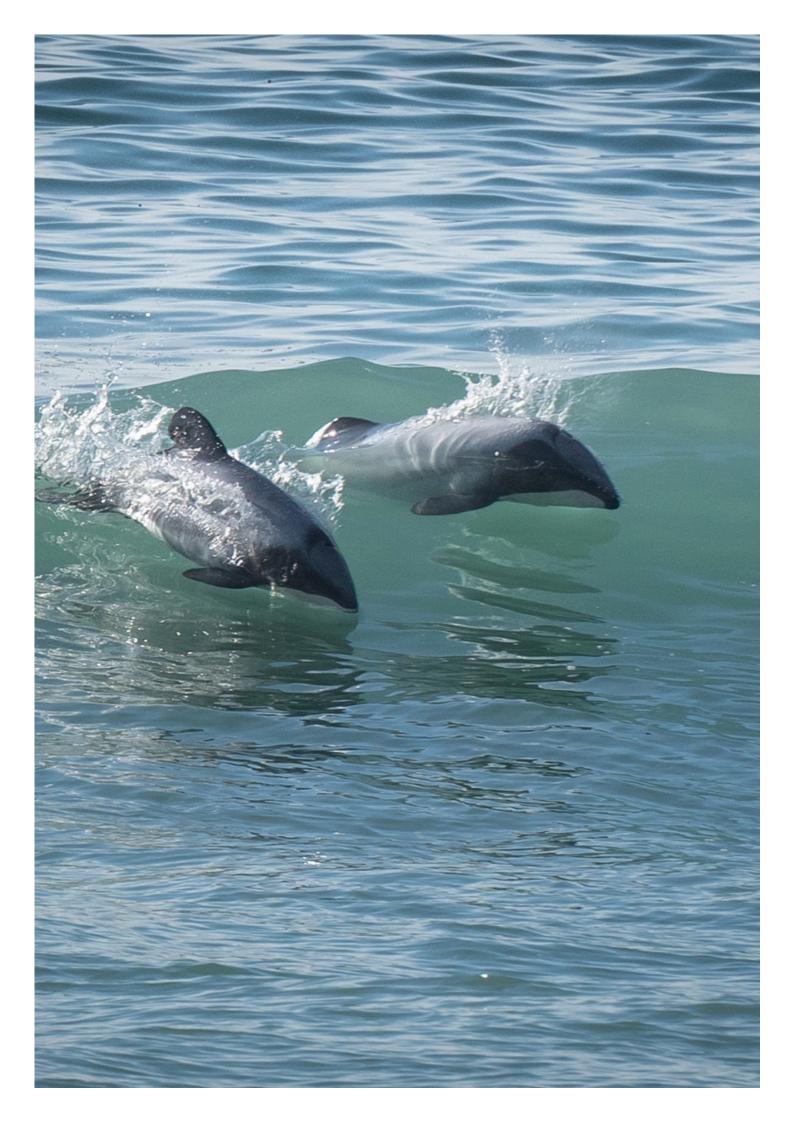
Once numbering around 500, the Māui dolphin — found only on the west coast of Te lka-a-Māui — now has fewer than 50 individuals left. This makes it one of the rarest marine dolphins in the world. Closely related Hector's dolphins, which were once the most common dolphins in Aotearoa's waters, have also suffered dramatic declines, dropping from an estimated 50,000 in the 1970s to around 15,000 today.

Both species face the same devastating pressures — lethal entanglement in set nets and trawl nets, habitat degradation, pollution, and the increasing impacts of climate change. Without decisive action, Māui dolphins could vanish within our lifetime. In response, ESF has been working closely with leading NGO partners to develop a national strategy to protect and restore these taonga species and safeguard the health of Aotearoa's oceans.

Key Achievements

- Collaborated with NGOs and local communities to build a coordinated ocean protection strategy.
- Launched Māui and Hector's Awhi Awa kete and resources to empower people to take action.
- Called for government to ban bottom trawling in Aotearoa and the South Pacific following severe coral destruction.
- Supported stronger Hauraki Gulf protections by calling for bans on destructive fishing, and backed the Heal the Hauraki initiative.
- Signed joint open letter rejecting Seafood NZ's misleading claim that Aotearoa has met the global 30% ocean protection target, highlighting that Benthic Protection Areas still permit harmful industrial fishing.
- Marked World Oceans Day at Whaingaroa, Raglan with iwi and Kiwis Against Seabed Mining to oppose seabed mining along the coast home to Māui dolphins.





Awhi Awa Kete Empowers Coastal Communities

In June 2025 we launched something special — the Māui and Hector's Dolphins Awhi Awa Kete — a powerful new tool to help communities protect our waterways and oceans, and to stand up for two of Aotearoa's most endangered taonga species.

Māui and Hector's dolphins face multiple threats including destructive fishing practices, which are the biggest killers of these dolphins. This includes set nets and bottom trawling which devastate the seafloor, destroy coral forests, release carbon, and wipe out the food sources that dolphins rely on.

Māui and Hector's habitats are also being destroyed by run-off from waterways, habitat loss, pollution and disease.

Each Māui and Hector's kete includes:

- Educational fact sheets
- Signs made of scrap stainless steel
- Posters and practical action guides
- Resources for schools, kura, marae, community groups, and businesses
- Ocean habitat protection tools
- Classroom and community modules



Order your kete here: www.endangeredspecies.org.nz/awhi-awa

Each kete sold helps fund the expansion of this mahi across Aotearoa — supporting education, advocacy, and practical restoration work.



Help fund the Māui and Hector's Dolphins campaign.

Your donation will support:

- Advocacy for stronger ocean protections
- Community outreach and engagement

https://www.endangeredspecies.org.nz/donate-to-the-maui-dolphin



Tairāwhiti Ngutukākā

Supporting Māori-Led Restoration

This Māori-led restoration project has championed the revival of the Tairāwhiti Ngutukākā, a rare coastal native with fewer than 100 plants remaining in the wild.

With dedicated support, the initiative has raised national awareness of the species' plight and delivered hands-on community action — culminating in the first-ever Ngutukākā Festival, which drew people from across the motu.

The project united iwi, hapū, kaitiaki, councils, experts, and local communities to collect seeds, grow seedlings, plant Ngutukākā in suitable habitats, and share mātauranga through wānanga and events. As a result, this taonga species has moved from near-invisibility to a growing, visible presence in the Tairāwhiti landscape.

Key Achievements

- Planting milestones: 5,000 ngutukākā seedlings planted across 11 marae and kura sites
- Wānanga held with marae and kura across
 Tairāwhiti to educate, empower and engage
 hāpori and tamariki.
- The project is now transitioning to independent Māori leadership, and ESF continues to offer support as needed.

Ngutukākā: "Festival of Revival"

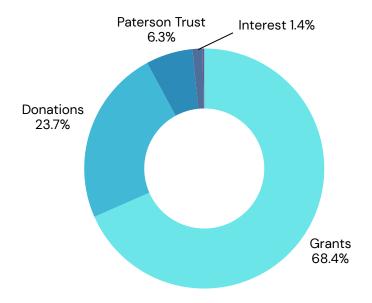
The inaugural Ngutukākā Festival, held from 18 to 21 September 2024, celebrated the Tairāwhiti Ngutukākā in bloom and this highly successful event reconnected communities with this endangered taonga plant. The festival drew passionate manuhiri (visitors) and local whānau who share a love for the restoration of te taiao and this once abundant flower. The festival also provided economic boost to local businesses during traditionally quiet tourism period.



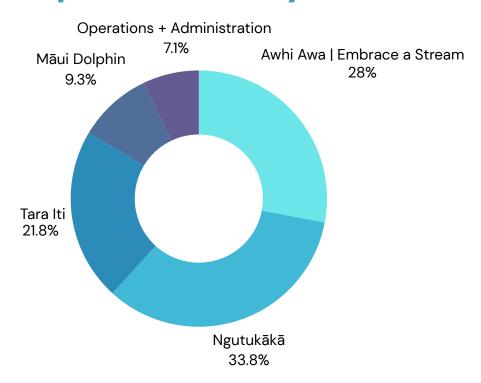


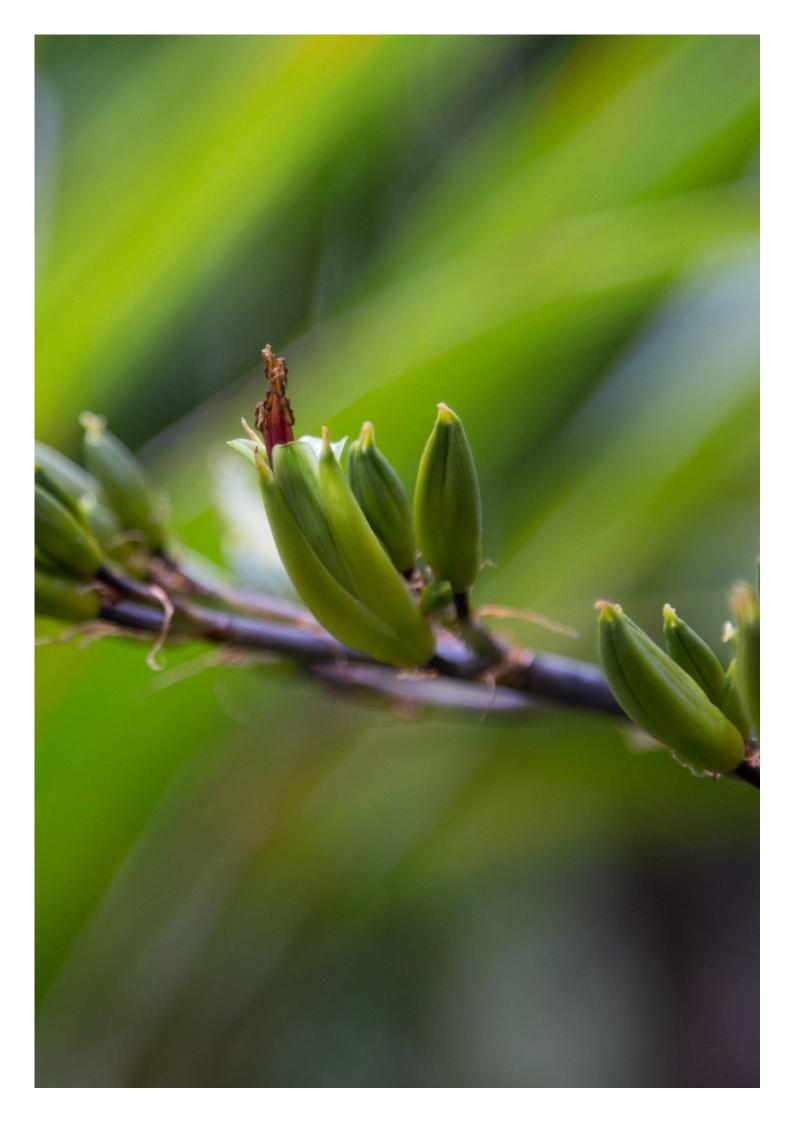
Financial Sustainability

Income Sources 2024-2025



Expenditure by Focus Area





Uniting Talents Empowering Change

Tāngaro Tuia te Ora – the Endangered Species Foundation – is led through a co-governance model, with the aim of upholding Te Tīriti o Waitangi and empowering tāngata whenua and tāngata Tīriti in the efforts to restore the habitats and biodiversity of Aotearoa. Our small team works alongside volunteer trustees and advisors, whose shared expertise keeps us at the leading edge of action for endangered species.

Board of Trustees



Tāwera Nikau Co-Chair



Emma Giesen Co-Chair



Rangitahi Wharepapa Trustee



Mike Thorsen



Kate Thomson Trustee ESF and Paterson Trust



Stephen Goodger Finance Trustee

Vice Patron



Neil ThorsenFounder and Vice Patron

Operations



Natalie Jessup General Manager



Christie GoodwinProject Manager



Matt Wall Accountant

Advisors

We are guided by an extensive advisory group, which includes community experts, scientists and those with knowledge of mātauranga Māori. These experts share their knowledge and advice, keeping us ahead of the latest research, projects and calls to action for endangered species.



Dr Mike Thorsen Chief Science Advisor



Graeme Atkins Mātauranga & Māori-led restoration mahi



Karli ThomasOceans



Stu Muir Awa & wetland restoration



Krista van der Linde Marine Mammals



Adam Simperingham Solicitor/Honorary Solicitor



Prof. Phil SeddonConservation



Abi Foy Water Health



Dylan van Winkel Reptiles & amphibians



Dr James RussellPest animals



John Barkla Plants & habitats



John Innes Birds



Greg JenksCoastal Restoration



James Tweed
Invertebrates



Colin O'Donnell Birds

Looking Ahead

2025 - 2026 Priorities

Expanding Impact

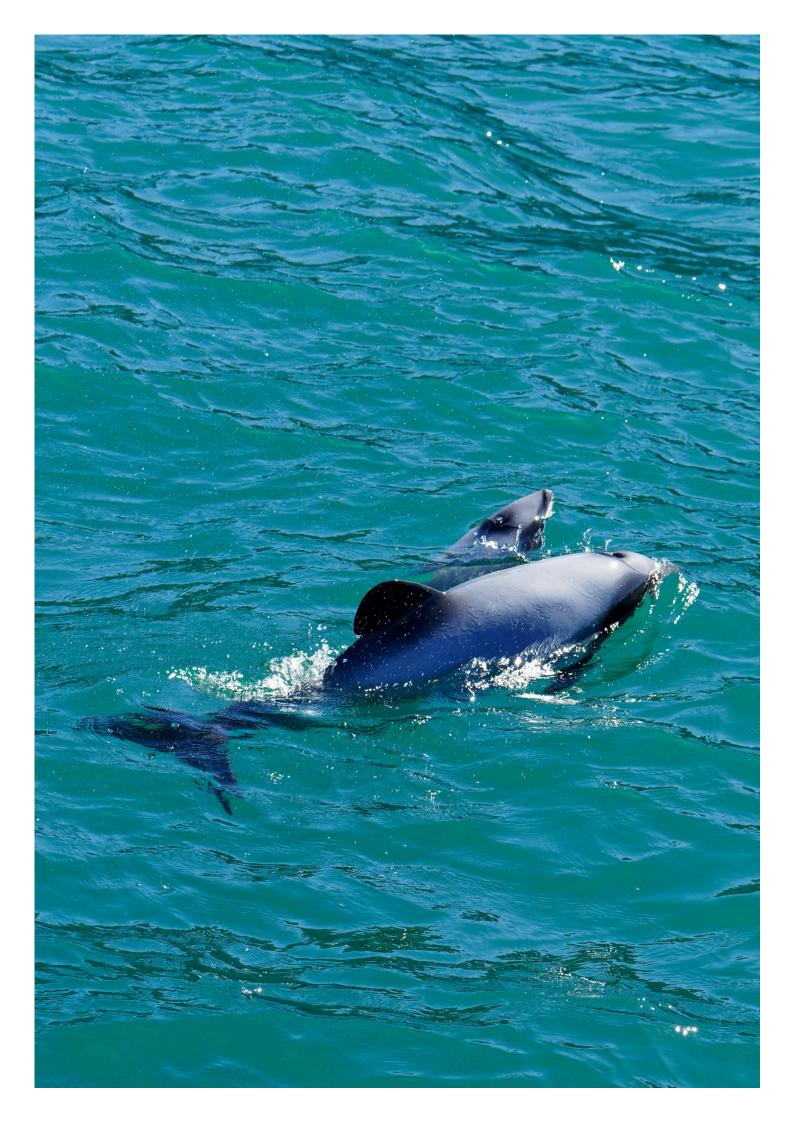
- Roll out Awhi Awa nationwide, delivering workshops and community engagement.
- Support tara iti conservation and maintain strong opposition to sand mining.
- Mobilise for Māui and Hector's dolphin protection and broader marine reserves.
- Lead advocacy and submissions on critical environmental legislation.

Building Partnerships

- Strengthen collaborations to ensure meaningful iwi engagement and alignment with community and national groups.
- Deepen relationships with values-aligned organisations to grow financial sustainability and scale environmental impact.

Environmental Leadership

- Champion innovative, evidence-based solutions for marine and freshwater protection.
- Elevate public awareness and empower communities to take action for Aotearoa's ecosystems.



Ngā Mihi Nui

Thank you to all our supporters

Our valued supporters and funders are vital to the work we do to enable restoration work across the motu for our most endangered species and their habitats. We are so grateful to you all for the valuable contributions you make to help the revival of our precious awa (rivers), whenua (land) and te taiao (environment) of Aotearoa New Zealand.

A special thank you to Neil Thorsen, our Vice Patron, and the Paterson Trust who continue to enable our mahi with ongoing project support.























Partnership Opportunities

All our partners and supporters can engage with the projects they support in a meaningful way for their communities – from whānau, to staff and clients, to kura and retirement villages. If you are interested in partnering with us and tailoring a specific project please get in touch:

⊘www.endangeredspecies.org.nz/contact







Every achievement in this report is the result of our collective efforts. From the monthly supporter keeping our work moving, to the major donor backing new initiatives, to the volunteer who shares and signs petitions, to the expert who gifts mātauranga – you are all part of this movement to restore and protect te taiao.

The tara iti chicks fledged this season carry our hopes for their species. Streams restored through Awhi Awa uplift the value of wai. Marine life protected through advocacy shows that more responsible approaches are possible – and that together we can do more.

We are not just preventing extinction. We are forging collaborative pathways to a thriving, resilient future.

Together. Better. Mauri ora ki a koutou katoa.



www.endangeredspecies.org.nz

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