



# Rotokare Scenic Reserve Trust

## Taranaki's Pest-free Sanctuary



Sanctuary | Community | Sustainability



# Background: Rotokare Scenic Reserve Trust

**2004** – Trust established – initial lofty goal to raise \$30k for possum eradication

**2008** – \$3m raised – 8.2km pest-proof fence & 12 mammalian pest species eradication

**RSRT has never had financial debt**

**2010** – Environmental Education programme & on-site facilities, eradication declared successful

**2012** – Species reintroductions began – Kiwi

**2014** – Tieke – 1<sup>st</sup> species reintroduced to region

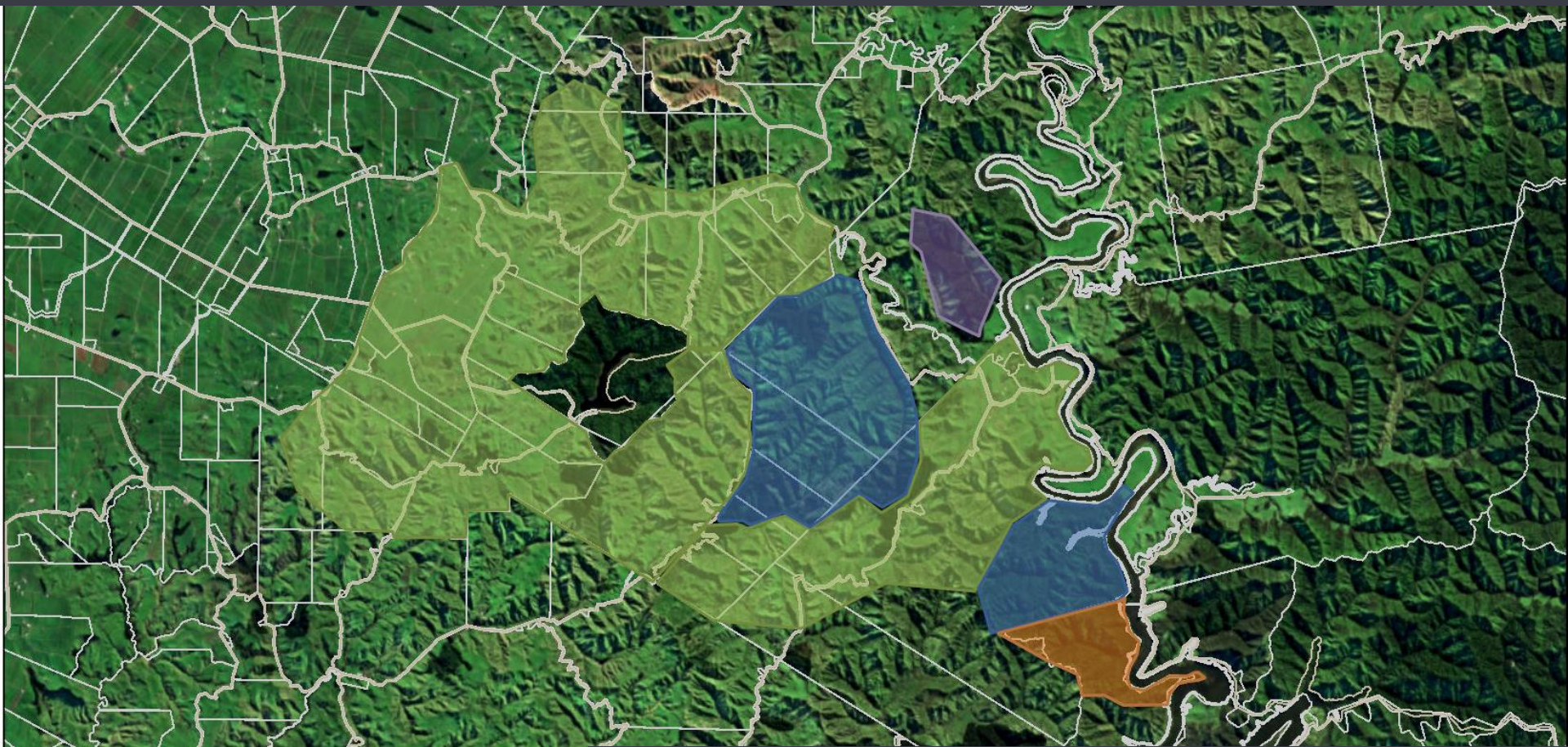
**2015** – Halo Project underway

**Community-owned & Community-led**



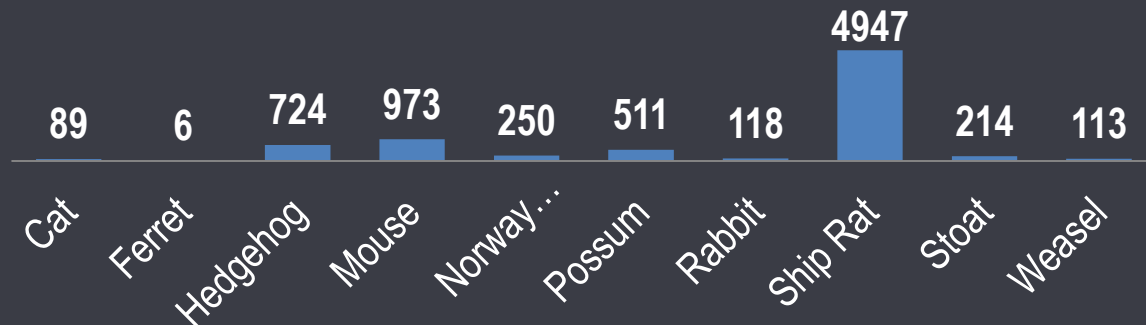


# Halo project – Community collaboration



3-year Halo trap-catch **7945**

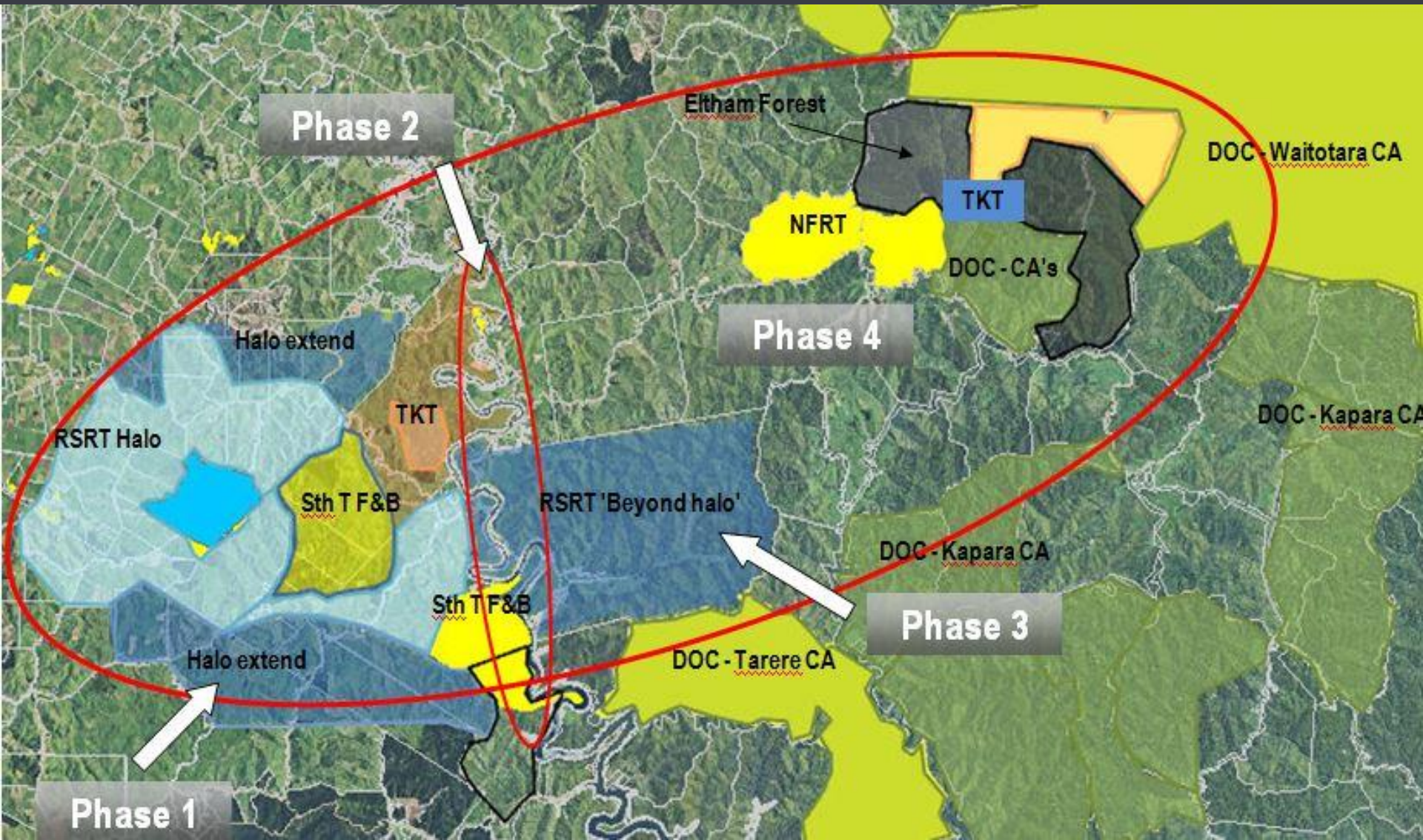
Hectares of protection **4050**





# Beyond the Halo – Future Biodiversity Corridor

## Linking multiple organisations & landowners



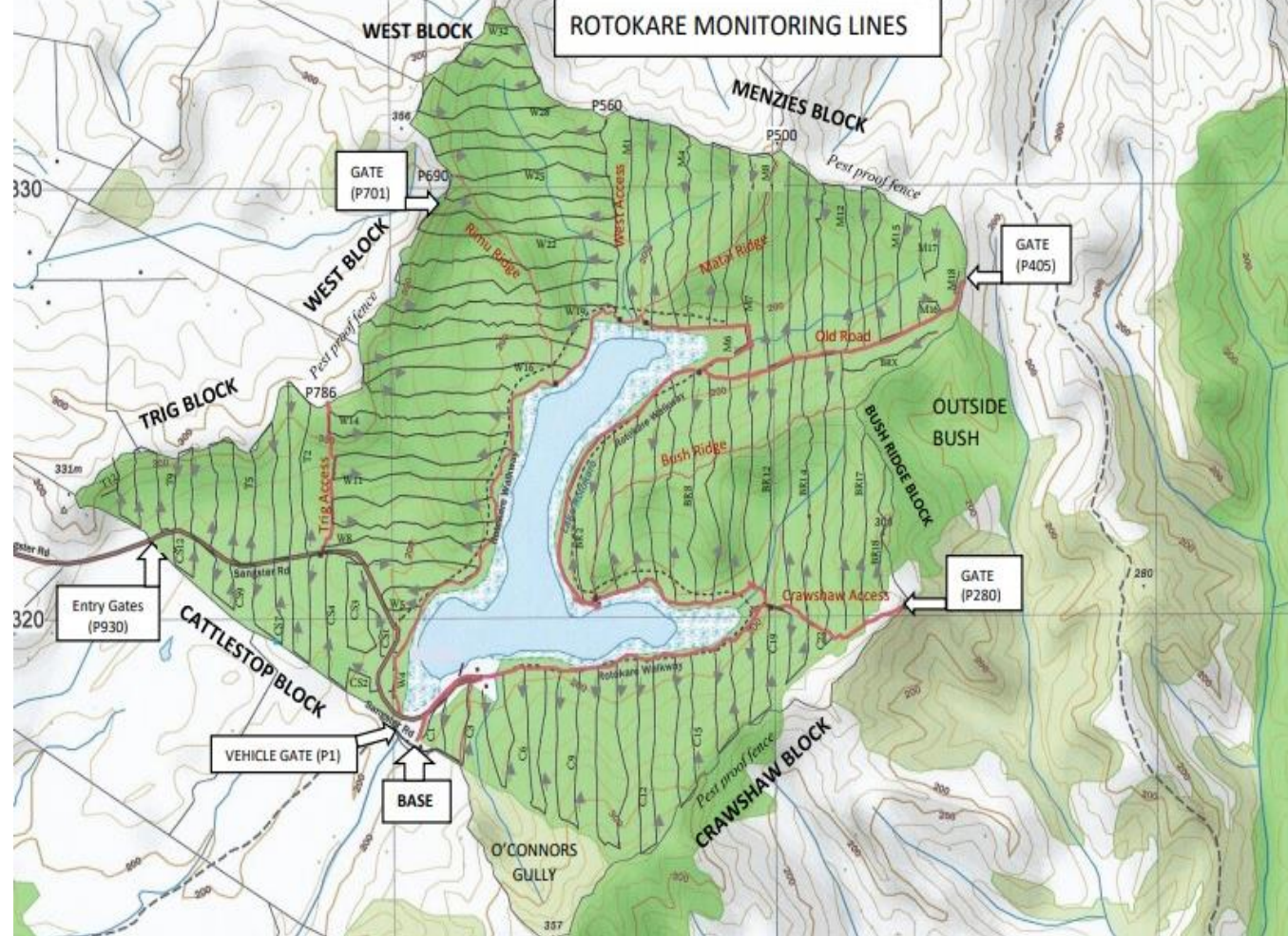


# Sanctuary Biosecurity

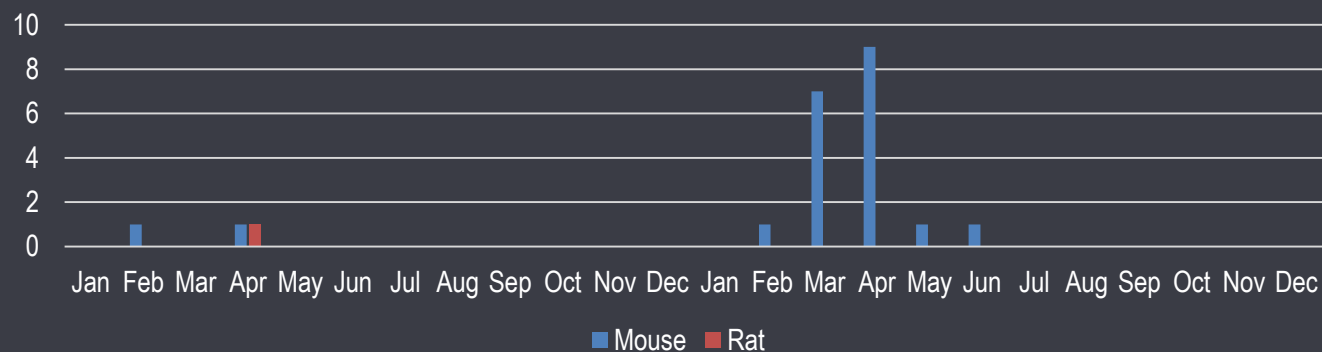
- 45km's monitoring lines
- 1800 tracking tunnels
- 522 permanently set traps

## Since Eradication

- 2 stoats (2009)
- 15 rats
- 317 mice
- + 2 detailed toxin pulses for mice (2013 & 2016)



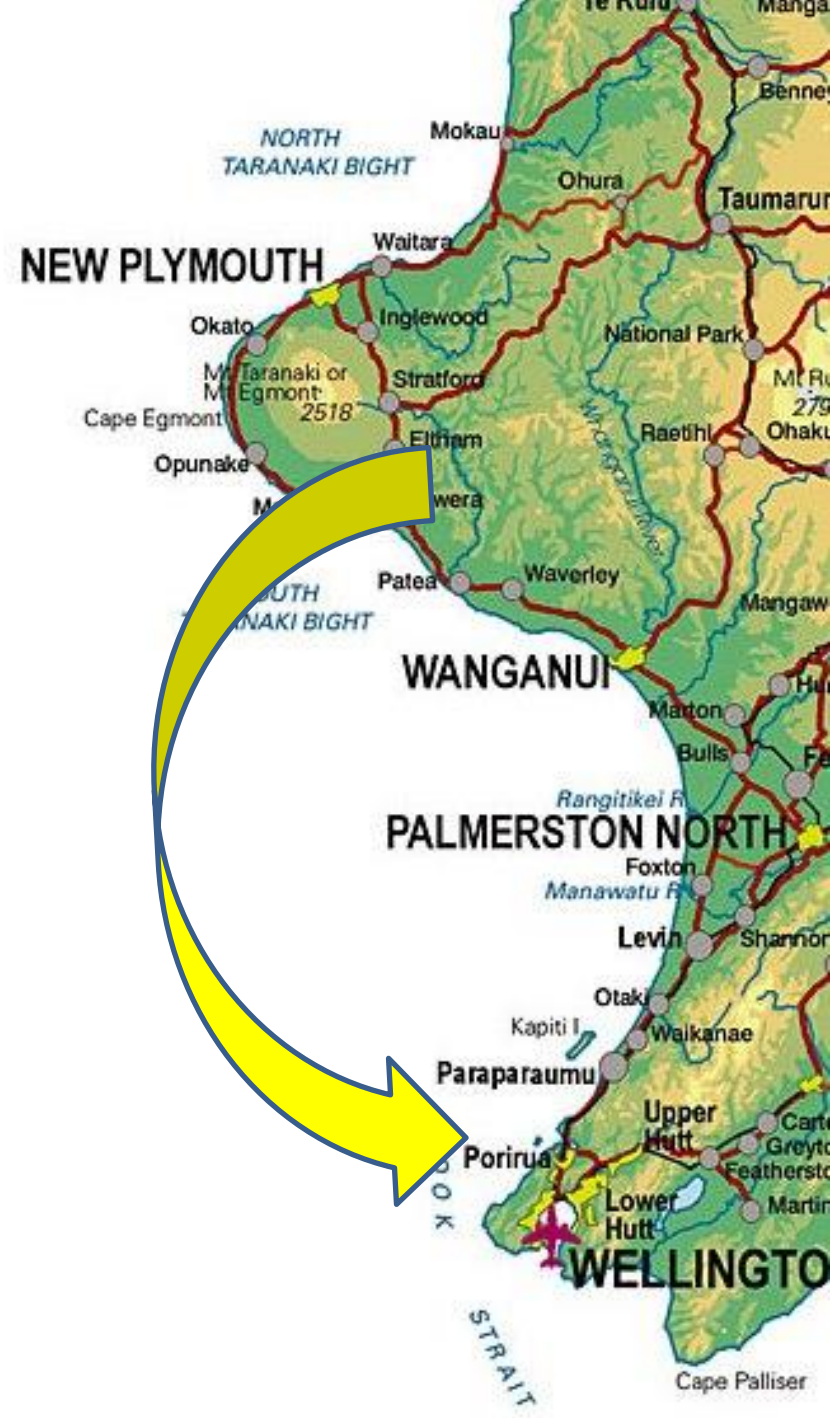
Sanctuary Pest Animals - Jan 2018 - Dec 2019







**Translocation source - Fernbird**  
 2017 & 2018 – Pauatahanui  
 2019 – Mana Island





# Hihi Restoration - an enormous commitment



**2017-18** - 17 fledglings, 1st hihi hatched in Taranaki since 1880's

**2018-19** - 43 fledglings banded  
- Incl. natural nesting!

**2019-20** - Population = 100+ ???

## Effort

**Translocation** = 860+ person hours  
per translocation  
(Saturday to Saturday)

**Annual hihi programme**  
1,200+ hours approx  
(Volunteers & Staff)

**Sugar-water & hygiene**  
Every 3 days since 1<sup>st</sup> release,  
3+ hours per day = 700+ hours

# Taranaki Kōhanga Kiwi at Rotokare

## Partnership - Established 2012



**Goal #1:** 40 genetically diverse founders - 2020  
(33 founders to date, 4 more geographically isolated founders by Xmas 2019)

**Goal #2:** 1<sup>st</sup> Harvest & Translocation achieved - 2019

**Goal #3:** Sustainable annual harvest programme .....

**Estimated current population: 150+ kiwi**

**Annual routine harvest prediction: 20-30 kiwi**



Robbie – founder #33



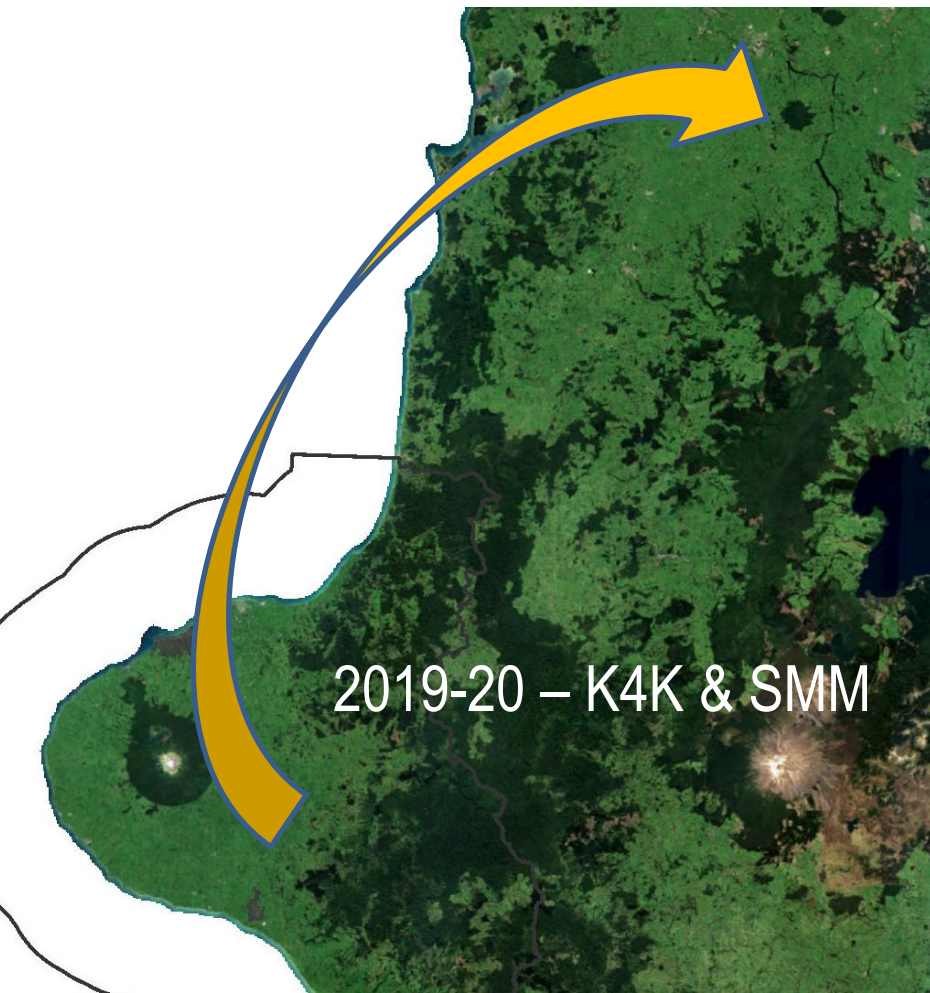


# Taranaki Kōhanga Kiwi at Rotokare

2019 – 2021 Harvest & translocation plans



**Goal = 60 kiwi translocated by April 2020**





# April 2019 - Titipounamu translocation

- 1<sup>st</sup> bird translocation from the Mounga
  - Restoration goal for Rotokare
  - Shared regional aspirations

Collaboration with:  
Taranaki Mounga Project  
&  
Department of Conservation



Department of  
Conservation  
*Te Papa Atawhai*



60 titipounamu translocated over 3 days





# Team Work

Parker Conservation  
Taranaki Mounga Project  
Rotokare Volunteers

Supporters of Tiritiri Matangi  
Department of Conservation  
Rotokare Youth Ambassadors





# May 2019 - Pateke Reintroduction

- 1<sup>st</sup> pateke in Taranaki for c100 years +
  - Regional Restoration Goal
  - Most challenging Rotokare reintroduction yet

Collaboration with:  
Pateke Recovery Group (+ Air NZ)

Supported by:  
Captive breeders & Issac Conservation Trust,  
Fish & Game

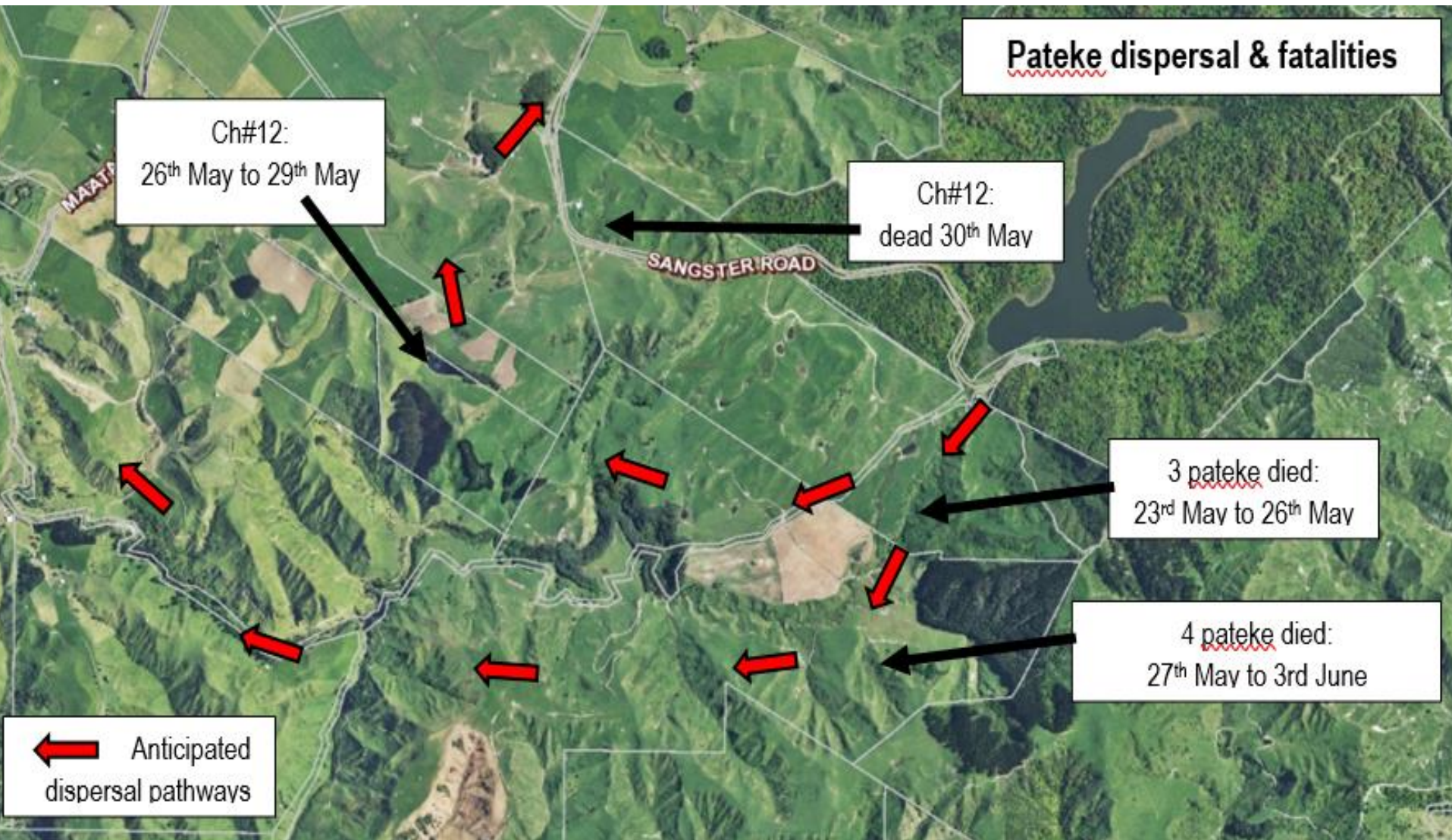


20 pateke released





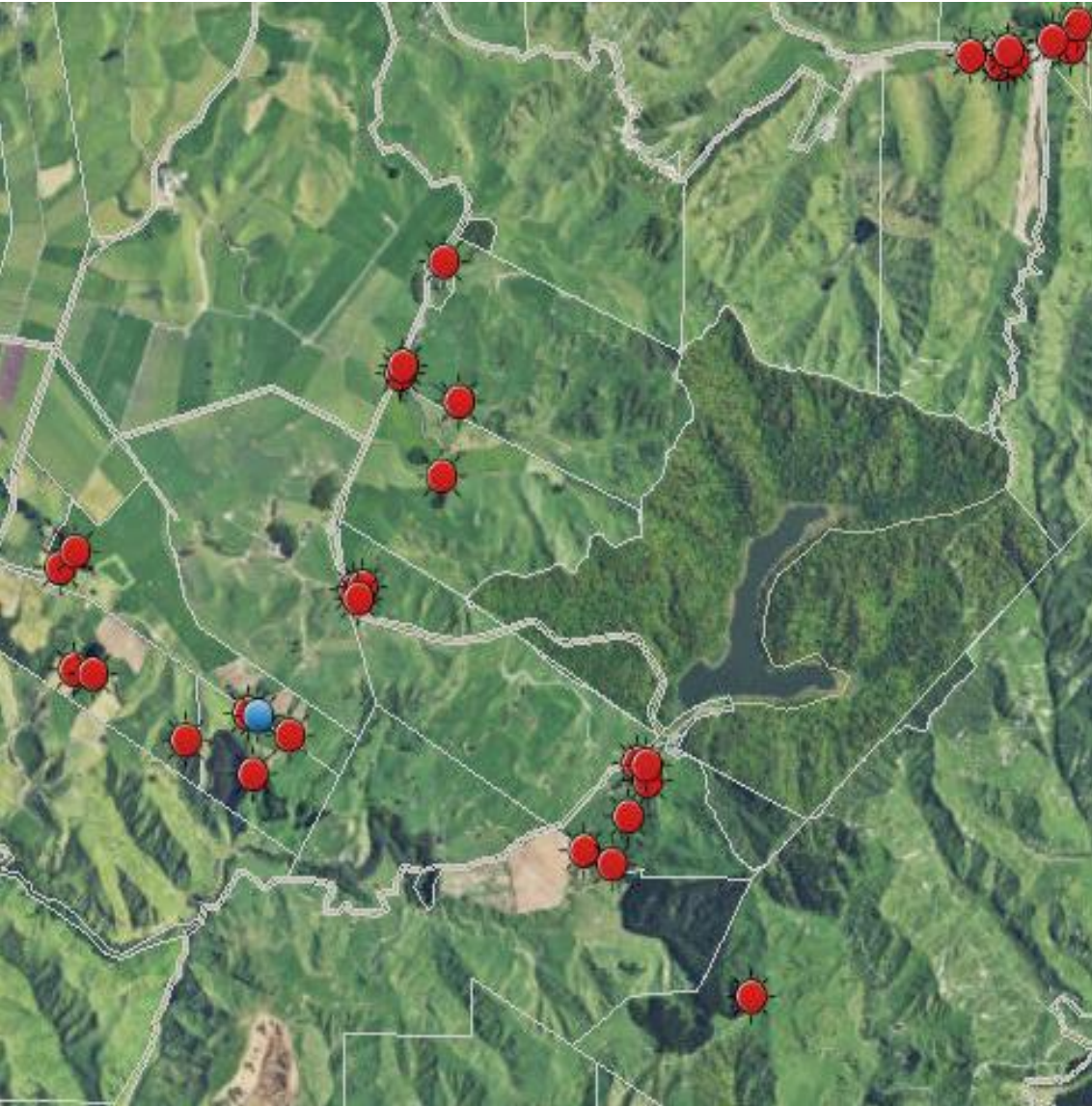
A very rough 2-weeks for the team – 8 of 20 pateke deceased (40% loss)



We had clearly underestimated the number of feral cats in the area



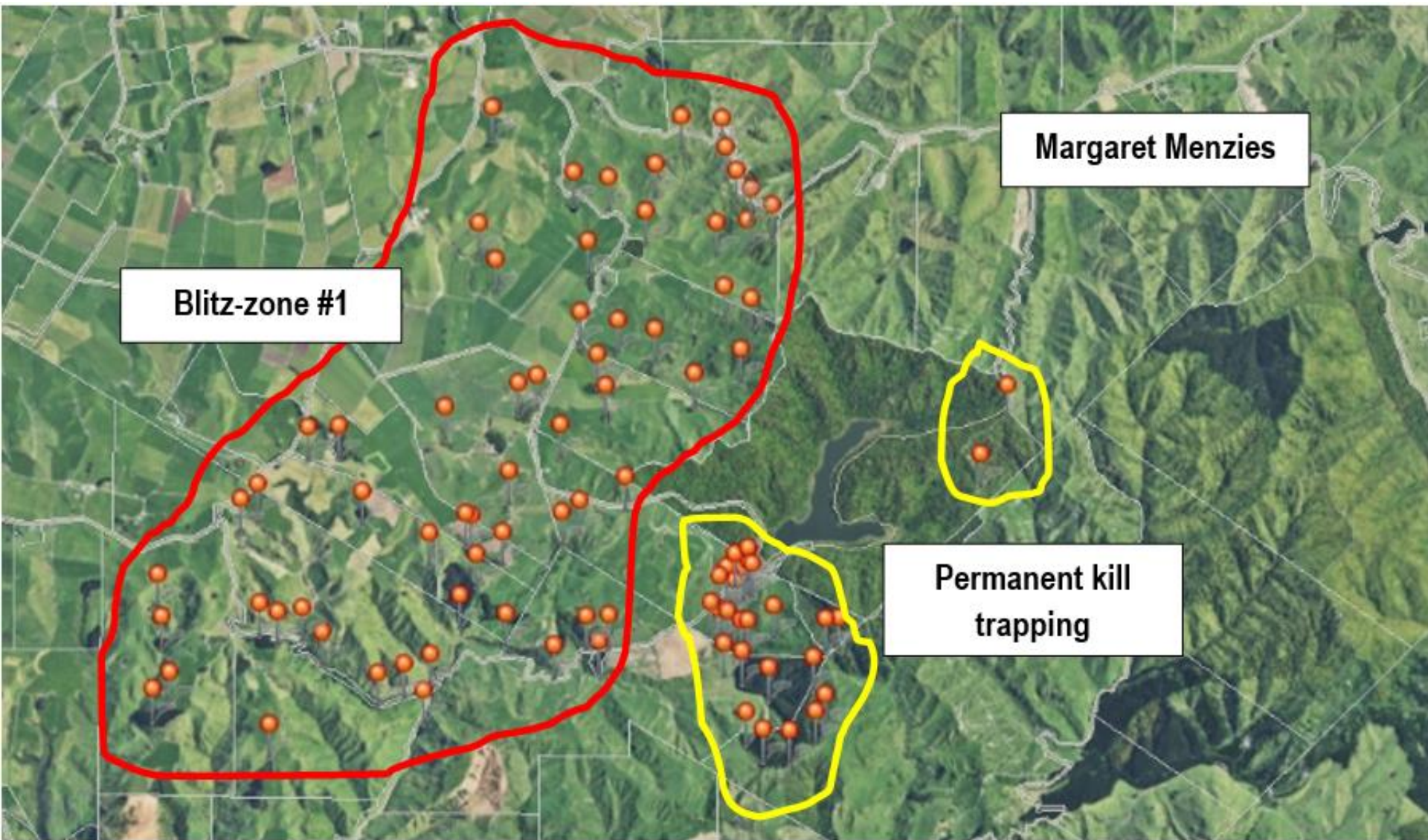
**The next few weeks were pretty rough for feral cats**



**41 feral cats & 1 ferret dispatched - no further pateke deaths**



## The next step - A dormant grid of kill-traps for coordinated pulses



Pateke are now dispersing beyond the sanctuary & surviving



# August 2019 - Office building extension









# Rotokare - Land of Beer & Honey







# Sanctuary Community Sustainability

Aspiring to achieve  
ecological & social  
success in equal  
measure