

Might the moa be a goer? DeExtinction and the prospect of species resurrections

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The prospect of species de-extinction, the resurrection of extinct species using new genetic engineering techniques, potentially broadens the range of species and associated processes we might seek to restore. De-extinction of one species has already occurred, and we will see the resurrection of multiple species at some future time. But this possibility raises many questions, from scientific, conservation, ethical and moral points of view. Because the goals of de-extinction relate to ecological enrichment, selection of de-extinction candidates should be guided by the feasibility and risks of their release into suitable habitat but which species and what habitat? Is the world ready for the return of the woolly mammoth or the sabre-tooth cat? Could Tasmanian tigers (thylacine) reinhabit Tasmania? Is the moa a goer for New Zealand, or are there better options?