

Consulting on the protection of native species in Mapara Operational Area

The Department of Conservation (DOC) wants to reduce rats, stoats and possums to protect native species

Native wildlife needs protection here

Mapara is home to a nationally significant relic population of North Island kōkako (*Calleas wilsoni*). Kārearea/ New Zealand falcon and toutouwai/North Island robin are also found in the reserve, along with healthy populations of many common native forest birds such as miromiro/tomtit, pōpokotea/whitehead, tui, riroriro/grey warbler, ruru/morepork and korimako/bellbird. Pekapeka/long-tail bats also live in the wildlife reserve, roosting in the hollows of large trees and under epiphytes.

The Mapara Wildlife Reserve is one of the most diverse and productive intact ecosystems in New Zealand. However, the forest and wildlife are under threat. Introduced predators like rats and stoats eat bird eggs, bird chicks, and roosting bats. Possums also prey on native species and eat native trees, reducing the food available for others. Without protection, we risk losing the unique forests and native wildlife that make Mapara unique.

The plan to control introduced predators

To protect native species, our team in Maniapoto is planning to reduce predator numbers across 1945 hectares of the forest.

The most effective tool to control predators over large areas is bait pellets containing sodium fluoroacetate (1080). Helicopters distribute bait across the forest along pre-determined and monitored flight paths. This is the only way to control possums, rats and stoats across vast, remote and rugged landscapes.

Ground-based trapping and bait stations are effective in smaller more accessible areas however the number of predators can overwhelm trapping networks.

The Department also uses bait stations filled with cereal pellets such as Diphacinone in this area during the years between aerial operations.

This work is part of DOC's National Predator Control Programme. We are protecting the remaining populations of threatened native species while tools continue to be developed to eradicate possums, rats and stoats across New Zealand.



Kōkako. Photo: Tara Swan

Monitoring native species

Through sustained predator control, there is a big increase in breeding success for birds, their food source is more abundant, and the forest canopy is healthier. DOC's intensive species monitoring shows nesting success of kōkako increased significantly within areas that have had predator control. For kōkako to be successful at fledging young, pest control must reduce possum and rat numbers to very low densities throughout the nesting season. Kōkako start to nest at the end of October to start of November.

Pest control in Mapara from 1989 to 1995 resulted in an increase in the population from 16 to 32 pairs. When pest control stopped, kōkako numbers ultimately declined because nests were not successful once rodent numbers began to climb.



Department of
Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai

Key facts about 1080

1080 is a manufactured, biodegradable toxin. Its active ingredient, fluoroacetate is found in poisonous plants in Australia, Africa and Brazil. It is also found at lower levels in our native plants.

1080 bait is broken down naturally in the environment by micro-organisms, fungi and plants into harmless compounds and does not leave permanent residues in soil, water, plants or animals.

The Department of Conservation complies with all relevant regulations and takes a precautionary approach to the application of 1080.

Operations begin with the distribution of pre-feed non-toxic bait to prepare possums/rodents to eat the toxic bait that will be applied afterwards.

Learn more about why we use 1080 to control introduced predators.

www.doc.govt.nz/nature/pests-and-threats/methods-of-control/1080

Proposed timeframe

Predator control operations are done when monitoring shows predators have reached levels that threaten the populations of native species. Operations are weather dependent. At this stage, the operation in Mapara is planned to occur between 1 August 2025 and 31 October 2025. This timing will reduce predator numbers before the 2025 kōkako breeding season.

Have your say

DOC consults with iwi, hapū and key stakeholders including adjacent landowners for predator control operations where 1080 is the proposed method. We aim to understand people's views and answer any questions they may have.

The DOC team at Maniapoto or our contractor ECOFX would like to contact you to discuss the proposed operation. This includes how you think it could affect the following:

- You and your wellbeing, native flora and fauna, natural resources and your ability to protect, manage and use these resources.

As part of this consultation process, we will consider what we can do to mitigate any effects.



Kārearea. Photo: DOC

Consultation next steps

Your feedback during consultation will help guide decisions about the operational plan.

DOC or our contractor will update you about the outcomes of the consultation and any changes to the treatment boundary plan. This update will be in the form of a notification fact sheet, and it will include a more precise timeframe for the operation.

Use of 1080 requires permission from the Ministry of Health. DOC is delegated authority by the Environmental Protection Agency to decide applications for permission to use 1080 on land administered or managed by DOC.

DOC ensures that all legal and policy requirements are met, and that any potential risks of the operation are managed.

Managing risk

1080 is poisonous to humans, domestic and game animals. In areas where the toxin has been applied, dogs are highly at risk until poisoned carcasses have disintegrated. This takes four-to-eight months or longer. Seek veterinary advice for suspected poisoning of domestic animals.

Risks can be eliminated by following these rules:

DO NOT touch bait

WATCH children at all times

DO NOT EAT animals from this area or within the buffer zone outside the treatment boundary.

The standard buffer zone is 2 km for deer and pigs, 200 m for rabbits, and 1 km for hares, tahr, wallabies and possums.

Poison baits or carcasses are DEADLY to DOGS

Observe these rules whenever you see warning signs about pesticides. These signs indicate pesticide residues may be still present in baits and poisoned carcasses. When signs are removed this means you can resume normal activities in the area. Always report suspected vandalism or unauthorised removal of signs.

If you suspect poisoning, please contact:

- Your local doctor or hospital
- The National Poisons Centre: 0800 764 766 (urgent calls) or 03 479 7248 or dial 111
- Seek veterinary advice for suspected poisoning of domestic animals

Map of planned predator control area within Mapara Operational Area

The map on the next page shows the planned area of 1945 ha for predator control.

For more information

Please contact:

Operational planner

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AND/OR

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Visit the DOC website:

See more information about DOC's National Predator Control Programme

www.doc.govt.nz/our-work/national-predator-control-programme

Learn more about why we use 1080 to control introduced predators.

www.doc.govt.nz/nature/pests-and-threats/methods-of-control/1080

See operational updates and detailed maps of predator control on public conservation land

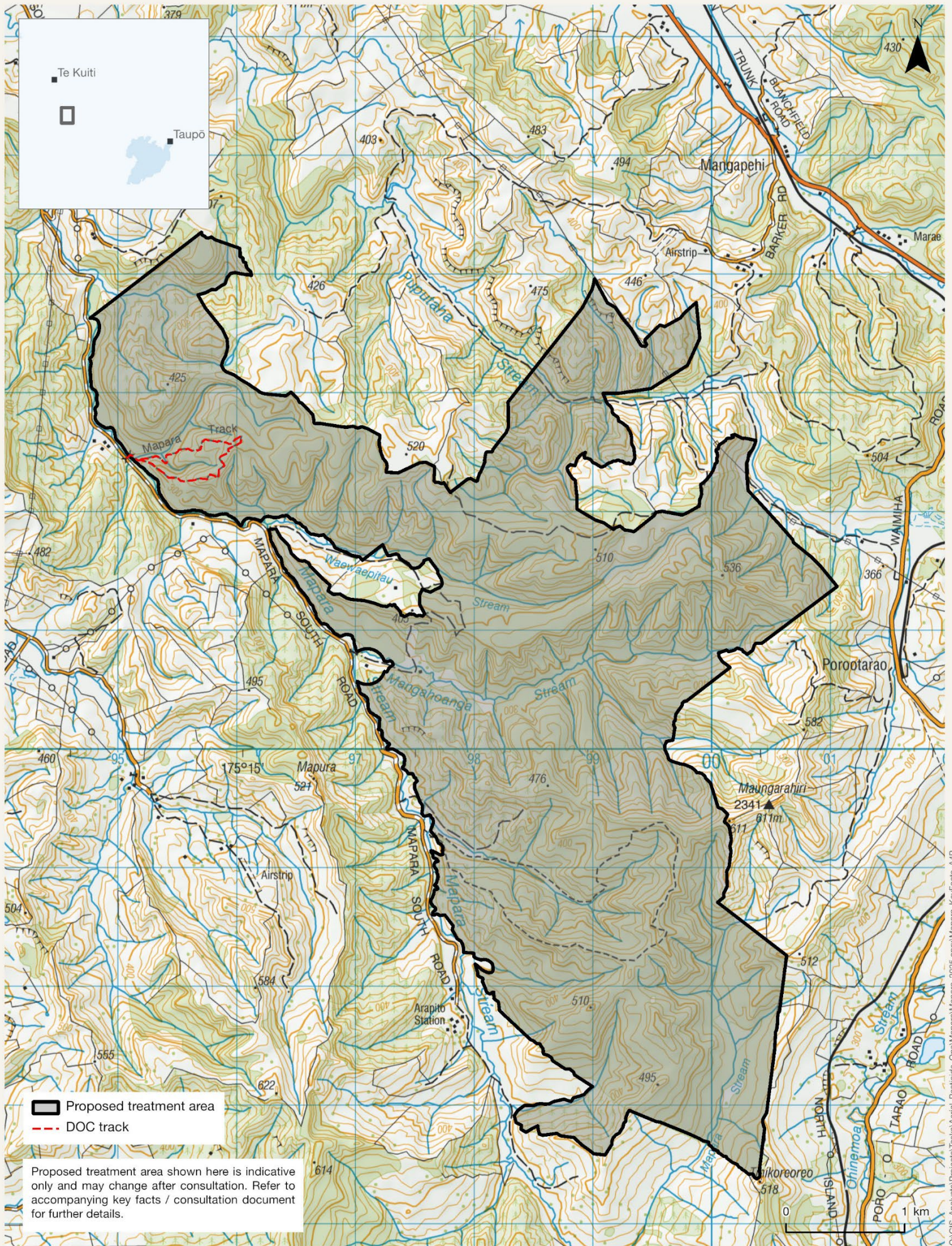
www.doc.govt.nz/nature/pests-and-threats/pesticide-summaries

See updates about track access and safety

www.doc.govt.nz/parks-and-recreation/know-before-you-go/alerts

Learn more about Predator Free 2050

www.doc.govt.nz/nature/pests-and-threats/predator-free-2050



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