Tukua mai kia piri Tukua mai kia tata
Tukua mai ki a Ranginui,
ki a Papatūānuku
ki Maungatautari
hei korowai
hei whakaruruhau
ki ngā uri a Tāne Mahuta
Tūturu ka whakamaua kia tina.
Tina, haumi ē, hui ē, tāki ē!

Let us come together, let us draw near,
Let us come closer to Father Sky
and Mother Earth
To our mountain, Maungatautari,
to provide a korowai,
to protect these children of
Tāne Mahuta.
We are committed to this purpose.
It will be done!
Sanctuary Mountain® Maungatautari (fondly known by locals as ‘the maunga’) is a very special place to visit due to the sheer enormity of the project, the extraordinary pest-proof fence, the passion of the people involved and the amazing wildlife. It’s also unique in its location – in the Waikato region, central North Island of mainland New Zealand, easily accessible to visitors.

At 3,363 hectares, the maunga is by far the largest pest-proof fenced project in the world. The fence encircles a major tract of scarce remnant indigenous forest in the centre of the Waikato basin. It’s also New Zealand’s most ambitious ecological restoration project. The fence around Sanctuary Mountain® Maungatautari is the largest pest-proof fence in the world at 47km, excluding all mammalian pests (other than mice on the main mountain), pets and livestock from getting over, under or through it.

The large size and quality of the habitat on the maunga means it’s a viable home for self-sustaining populations of many of our most endangered species – from birds to bats, frogs to reptiles, tuatara to giant weta.

The Sanctuary is vested in a unique iwi/community arrangement and co-governed by community trustees (Maungatautari Ecological Island Trust Board) representing landowners, mana whenua and the community.

Tena tatou katoa
We are a world leading ecological restoration business, pulling together strands of knowledge from renowned ecologists and scientists, integrating Matauranga Maaori, kawa values and tikanga to provide a uniqueness we must all be proud of.

Our co-governance board, also unique, is inclusive of mana whenua, landowners, and our highly valued community volunteers.

Sanctuary Mountain® Maungatautari provides the ultimate haven for threatened and endangered species.

As the creatures have disappeared, may the multitudes return.

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Vision

SHARE THE MAURI* AND MANA OF THE MAUNGA

Purpose

PROTECT AND ENHANCE THE MAURI OF MAUNGATAUTARI

How we work...

- Transparent and accountable Trustees.
- Building collaborative long-term relationships with mana whenua, our adjoining landowners and our community.
- Encourage volunteerism.
- Advocate for conservation.
- Raise awareness and promote educational opportunities.
- Respect for the tikanga and kawa of mana whenua.
- Trusted partner with local, regional and central government.
- Commitment to continuous improvement and safety in all the activities we do on the maunga.

* Mauri – life force of the maunga

OUR PRINCIPLES

- maōu Tikanga
- Collaborative
- Respectful
- Visionary
- Transparent
- Awareness
- Commitment
- Growth
- Supportive
- Truth
- Action
- Engaging
- Integrity

Share the mauri
By 2026 we will have:

- Improved our ability to keep the fenced reserve free of pest mammals.
- Re-established breeding populations of native species – kiwi, kokako, kakariki, kokapo, rifleman, petrels, snipe, frogs, geckos and bats.
- Consistently monitored changes and facilitated research and improved our understanding of the maunga.
- Shared the ‘lessons from the maunga’ so others may benefit from our experiences.
- Contributed to the ‘halo’ of inter-connected habitats across the Waikato landscape.
- Maintained a motivated and diversely skilled group of volunteers.

Maungatautari is a Top 20 NZ recognised ecotourism destination.

By 2026 we will have:

- Reached 50,000 visitors by 2021.
- Developed a set of guided and interpreted tours that evocatively weave mana whenua’s story, the cultural perspectives and Tikanga, into the visitor experiences offered.
- Encouraged and supported our hosts and guides in telling Maungatautari stories to consistently high standards so that they will be enjoyed and remembered long after visitors have departed.
- Facilitated and contributed to a Sanctuary Mountain® Maungatautari education programme to influence our tamariki/children to be aware of their Kaitiaki role in conservation and ecological restoration.
- Encouraged and facilitated regular visitation by local residents, ensuring their continued engagement in, and support for our project.
- Created necessary infrastructure and maintained it at a very high standard so that visitors would have had the best possible experiences, were safe, and left having been entertained and well informed.
- Promoted Sanctuary Mountain® Maungatautari as a premier destination in the itineraries of in-bound tourism operators.

Sound financial management by the Trust and continued donor support, underpins increasing economic viability of the Sanctuary® Mountain Maungatautari project.

By 2026 we will have:

- Increased visitor numbers, donors, grants and supporters contributions to meet the Trust costs.
- Improved the financial viability of the project through continuing to meet the requirements of our current donors and encouraging further organisations to join our family of donors, contributing to our strategic goals.
- Grown the diversity of our revenue streams to support our sustainable, viable enterprise.
- Secured additional funds for key capital investments and maintenance, visitor facility development, education facility development, upgrading of tracks and other vital infrastructure.
- Consistently applied appropriate business practices and demonstrated transparency and accountability to our partners and stakeholders.

Productive partnerships are a feature of our success.

By 2026 we will have:

- Consolidated Sanctuary Mountain® Maungatautari as a model of effective co-governance in which kawa and Tikanga of mana whenua was reflected in all that we did.
- Maintained strong relationships with our neighbouring landowners, based on mutual understandings of shared interests.
- Nurtured skills and confidence of our volunteers as conservation professionals, recognising they are the lifeblood of our organisation and underpin the on-going success of Sanctuary Mountain® Maungatautari.
- Continued to encourage and facilitate inputs and support from our partners, ensuring that their interests are appropriately reflected in our directions and activities. Our family of partners and donors will have grown, reflecting recognition of the opportunities provided by Sanctuary Mountain® Maungatautari, and the perceived value in partnering.
- Continued to strengthen inter-connected habitats across the Waikato landscape and the effects of the project’s success were felt further afield.

Sanctuary Mountain® Maungatautari is widely recognised as a world class conservation project.
Sanctuary Mountain® Maungatautari is a remarkable and unique natural capital asset for all of New Zealand, and will acquire international standing as the translocated wildlife species become established and achieve sustainable populations.

The 3,363 hectares of predominately tawa and podocarp forest ranging from 100 to almost 800 metres altitude, will become a focal point for species dispersal once the Waikato becomes predator free. Once the objective of pest free New Zealand by 2050 is attained the primary role of the pest-proof fence will have been largely achieved.

Another important role of the sanctuary is to increase the resilience of biodiversity within New Zealand. To have a large tract of forest with sustainable populations of many species enables survival of insect, fungi, bird and reptile species that may otherwise be lost from small unprotected remnant habitat areas.

The need to promote the maunga as a site for long term research into biodiversity changes over time in the absence of pest species and to monitor climate change should not be lost.

It should be noted by readers that this plan delivers outcomes derived from:

• Maungatautari Reserve Management Plan (under review)
• Sanctuary Mountain® Maungatautari 2016 – 2019 Operational Plan
• Restoration Plan (under review)
• Visitor Strategy
• Biosecurity and Pest Incursion Plan
• Asset Management Plan (in preparation)

Waikato Regional Council’s contributions

Waikato Regional Council recognises Sanctuary Mountain® Maungatautari as a regionally significant project. It has supported the Maungatautari Ecological Island Trust in its management of the project since 2009. The Council wishes to continue its involvement with the Trust as a partner, providing funding to support the maintenance of the enclosed area as an essentially pest-free sanctuary. In addition to contributing to the development of this strategic plan Council staff will also provide technical advice through appropriate forums, including the Natural Heritage Committee and the Maungatautari Reserve Committee. Council staff will also endeavour to facilitate the engagement of additional partners and to secure further funds in support of the Trust’s activities.

Waipa District Council’s contributions

Waipa District Council has clearly demonstrated its commitment to protecting and restoring the environs of Maungatautari. Waipa remains committed to administering and managing the reserve and giving effect to the principles of the settlement between the Crown, NKK and stakeholder iwi and will continue to resource these endeavours. As the manager we are required to capture and respond to community aspirations and facilitate stakeholder engagement to ensure the purpose of the reserve is achieved. Council has established an advisory committee to assist with this purpose. Maungatautari today remains a significant site of natural heritage and represents a very significant percentage (around 46%) of the remaining intact indigenous forest in the Waipa District. Waipa District Council remains committed to the protection and restoration of this ‘community asset’.

Department of Conservation’s contributions

The Department of Conservation (DOC) has provided technical advice and support to the Trust since its inception. While not quantified, the commitment has been significant in terms of staff time and internal resource allocation. Considerable resource has been committed by the Director Partnerships and the Partnership Manager to work with Trust staff to progress issues and opportunities, and for representation on Waipa District Council’s Maungatautari Reserve Committee. Staff also provide representation, technical advice and support to the Trust’s Natural Heritage Committee and staff have also contributed significant time into both takahē and kokako translocations. In the 2015/16 financial year DOC has supported the development of a visitors’ strategy with a contribution of $10,000. The Department has been contributing to the project by way of a contestable fund, the Biodiversity Condition Fund and more recently through the Community Conservation Partnerships Fund (CCPF). MEIT has received six grants from the WCCF since 2004 totalling $20,150. (The maximum grant from this fund is $5,000). Grants have been allocated for an interpretation plan, website upgrade, kakapo trial, binoculars for education, and brochure development.
Sanctuary Mountain® Maungatautari

Strategic Focus

This Strategic Plan indicates the direction that Sanctuary Mountain® Maungatautari is focussed upon for the next ten years. It has been developed in collaboration with our key partners and reflects the aspirational goals that we collectively share for the maunga and for Waikato.

1. World Class Conservation
   - Maintain pest free status
   - Translocate native wildlife
   - Monitor and facilitate research
   - Share lessons from the maunga
   - Motivated volunteers

2. Ecotourism Destination
   - Mana whenua content to tours
   - Consistent high quality visitor experience
   - Education programme of excellence
   - Engagement of locals
   - High quality and safe infrastructure
   - Premier destination

3. Productive Partnerships
   - Effective co-governance
   - Strong landowner relationships
   - Volunteers are conservation professionals
   - Supportive partners increase

4. Viable Enterprise
   - Supportive donors
   - Diversify revenue streams
   - Secure development funding
   - Good business practices and accountability

We would love to hear from you.

Please contact:
Maungatautari Ecological Island Trust
C/O Sanctuary Mountain® Maungatautari
07 870 5180
info@sanctuarymountain.co.nz

Would you like more information?