

Rangitoto National Park Rewild opportunity

Inspiring our community to rewild this place

The Opportunity

Floating in Auckland's front garden, Rangitoto, Motutapu, Motuihe/Te motu-a-Ihenga, and Browns Island (Motukorea), are predator-free motu (islands) that will flourish when native forest is thriving on them all.

Rangitoto motu contains the world's largest pohutukawa forest. The other 3 motu pastoral areas are ideal for rewilding of native forest, wetlands/streams and coastal ecology. Some planting by volunteers has already been started on Motuihe and Motutapu.

The motu are also nationally important coastal and volcanic landscapes, visitor destinations, land environments and geopreservation sites. The conferring of National Park status would recognize these nationally important values, with all the benefits that rewilding can create.

Current Management

Most parts of these motu are managed by DOC as Scenic and Recreation Reserves, which were gifted to the nation by Tāmaki Makaurau iwi under a Treaty Settlement. They are managed in an iwi/crown partnership, and a Conservation Management Plan is being prepared for them. The Hauraki Gulf Marine Park Act requires that the life-supporting capacity of most parts of these motu is of national importance. Some other areas of these motu are owned by iwi.

Key Benefits

1,692 hectares of grassland rewilded to native forest ceasing carbon emissions and creating a carbon sink in a nationally Threatened Environment

3,970 hectares of National Park legal protection for nationally important ecosystems, visitor destinations, geopreservation sites and coastal landscapes – the first islands National Park

4 predator-free native forest island refuges for threatened native species such as kiwi, takahe, tuatara, and saddleback

Stepping stones for native species to connect with the Hunuas, Waiheke Island, Tūpuna Taonga o Tāmaki Makaurau maunga, and the Auckland community
Spade ready employment for iwi and the community in the nursery, planting and tending

Context

These motu were recognized as part of the Hauraki Gulf Maritime Park for a period after 1967.

There are plans to rewild larger areas of these motu but the timeframe is long. With current and projected employment needs, there is a wonderful opportunity to rewild now, to attain immediate ecological and social value.

Some areas of WWII development and roads on Rangitoto could also be rewilded.

The motu are important ecological stepping stones within the Hauraki Gulf motu, and between the Hunua Ranges, eastern Auckland, and some of the other maunga of Auckland that the iwi plans to rewild.

These motu are also host to a variety of nationally important native species; Plants – shore spurge, shore buttercup, kohihi, pinaki, Kirk's tree daisy
Birds – little spotted kiwi, North Island brown kiwi, saddleback, takahe, shore plover, brown teal, northern NZ dotterel, whitehead, little blue penguin
Reptiles – tuatara, Dauvacel's gecko. More important native species are planned to be released.

The Hauraki Gulf Forum has identified the need for a Marine Reserve rewilding site on the shores of Rangitoto and Motutapu. Protection of ecosystem functions and processes would benefit from Marine Reserve rewilding around the entire shorelines of all these motu, particularly to benefit shorebirds.

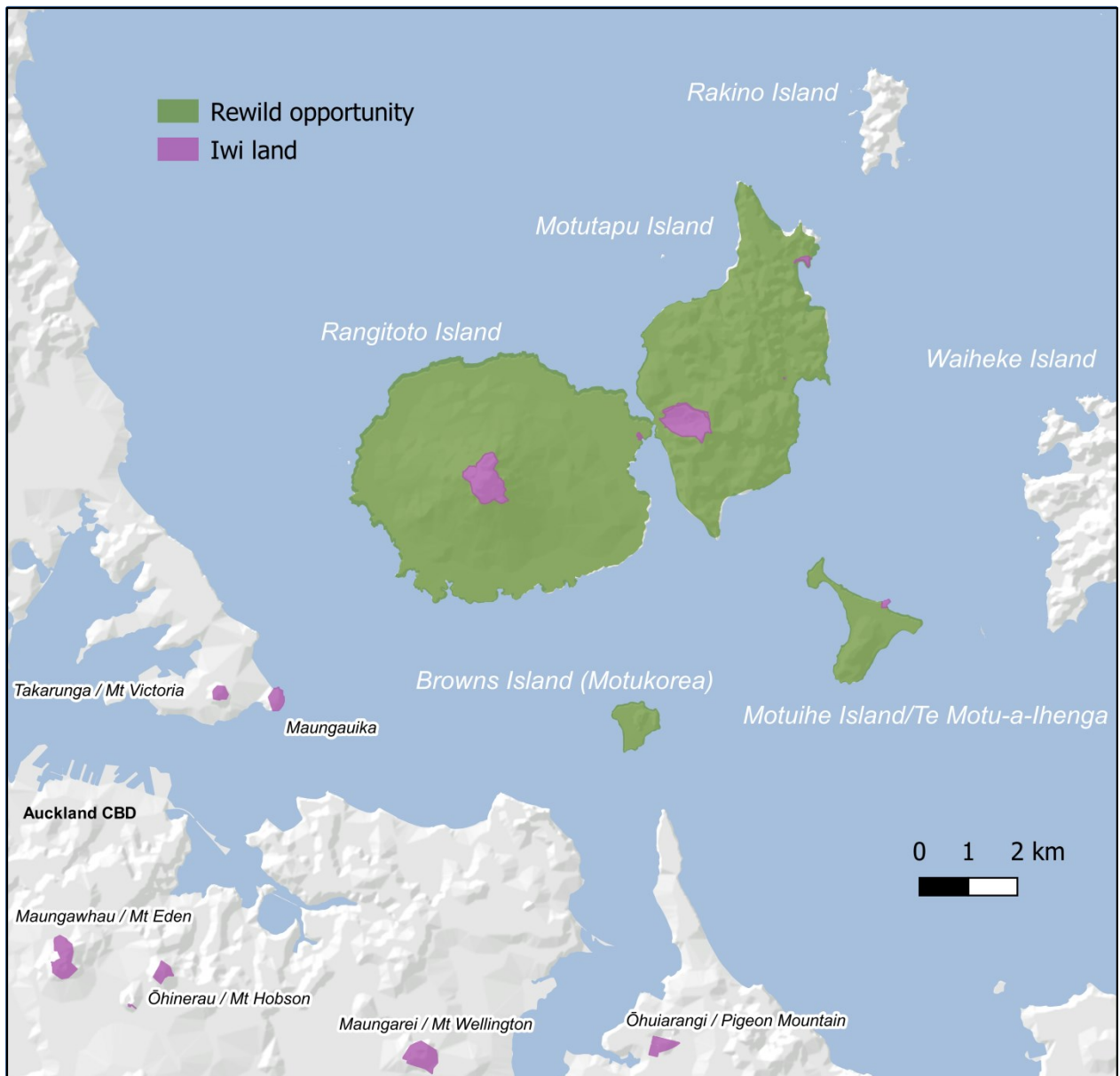


Dedicated to iwi, Professor John Morton, and the people of Auckland

Further reading

Tāmaki Makaurau Collective Redress Deed - <https://www.govt.nz/treaty-settlement-documents/tamaki-makaurau/> - www.legislation.govt.nz/act/public/2014/0052/latest/096be8ed818c261e.pdf
Rangitoto Island - <https://www.doc.govt.nz/parks-and-recreation/places-to-go/auckland/places/rangitoto-island/nature-and-conservation/>
Motutapu Island - <https://www.doc.govt.nz/parks-and-recreation/places-to-go/auckland/places/motutapu-island-recreation-reserve/historic-motutapu-island/> and <https://www.motutapu.org.nz/>
Motuihe Island - <https://www.motuihe.org.nz/>
Motukorea/Browns Island - [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Browns_Island_\(New_Zealand\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Browns_Island_(New_Zealand))
Hauraki Gulf Marine Park - <https://www.doc.govt.nz/haurakigulfmarinepark>

Opportunity Location



Rewilding: to create and protect healthy ecosystem processes and functions that can sustain themselves, our society, and our economy.

