

# Wildbase Strategic Goals



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## MASSEY UNIVERSITY - Wildbase

### Objectives of the Wildbase Research Centre

*Wildbase's mission is to provide veterinary and scientific services in support of New Zealand conservation. This includes monitoring and protecting the health and welfare of our most endangered species, including all IUCN Red Listed species in New Zealand.*

The team from Wildbase have had a sustained and continuing impact on the management of native wildlife species and provide a scientific basis for community engagement with wildlife in New Zealand and globally. This has been achieved by firstly, an outstanding portfolio of scientific investigations and research communications that set the standard for wildlife management, care and rehabilitation; and secondly, by building capability within New Zealand at community, industry, national and international levels to support these aims. Wildbase scientists are providing timely and effective research programmes that address real-world issues in biodiversity conservation, wildlife management and emergency interventions.

This mission is furthered under the following strategic projects:

1. Wildlife health research
2. Marine mammal pathology
3. Oiled wildlife response capability – in partnership with the Maritime New Zealand and the Global Oiled Wildlife Response Network
4. National wildlife diagnostic pathology – in partnership with the Department of Conservation
5. Wildbase Hospital
6. Central Energy Trust Wildbase Recovery Centre – in partnership with Palmerston North City Council and Rangitane o Manawatu

### **1. Wildlife Health Research**

The objective of the research conducted by the Wildbase Research Group is to have a sustained and continuing impact on the management of native wildlife species and to provide a scientific basis for community engagement with wildlife in New Zealand and globally. This will be achieved by firstly, an outstanding portfolio of scientific investigations and research communications that set the standard for wildlife management, care and rehabilitation; and secondly, by building capability within New Zealand at community, industry, national and international levels to support these aims. Wildbase scientists aim to provide timely and effective research programmes that address real-world issues in biodiversity conservation, wildlife management and emergency interventions.

### **2. Marine mammals**

The objective of this project is to provide expert advice on marine mammals to the Department of Conservation (DOC), Ministry of Primary Industries (MPI), National Institute of Water and Atmosphere (NIWA) and fishing industry. We also report annually to the International Whaling Commission, and engage with the media on marine mammal issues. We are involved in contracted diagnostic services (predominantly necropsy work) and several large-scale research projects, as well as providing expert advice to scientific advisory groups.

### **3. Oiled Wildlife Response capability**

The objective of this project is to minimise the damaging effects of oil pollution on wildlife. Wildbase and Maritime New Zealand continue their close working association of 23 years with the Wildbase Oil Response team to provide Oiled Wildlife Response capability and training in New Zealand. The Global Oiled Wildlife Response Service (GOWRS) is 10 international OWR partners working together to develop a global oiled wildlife response network.

### **4. National wildlife diagnostic pathology**

The objective of this project is to carry out post mortem investigation of the deaths of threatened species of terrestrial animals nationally to inform conservation and population management. This project is a collaboration with the Department of Conservation that has been running since 1998.

### **5. Wildbase Hospital**

The objective of Wildbase Hospital is to provide high quality medical and surgical care of native New Zealand fauna. The staff at the Wildbase Hospital regularly offer advice to veterinarians on clinical care, husbandry and nutrition of all NZ fauna and provide referral services for threatened and endangered native wildlife. This includes rare and endangered native birds, reptiles and bats from the local region as well as all over Aotearoa New Zealand, including all IUCN Red Listed species in New Zealand. This includes kākāpo, takahē, rowi kiwi, tūturuatu/shore plovers, and kākārīki karaka/orange fronted parakeets.

Groups that we work with include the Department of Conservation, species recovery programmes and captive wildlife institutions. The Wildbase Hospital provides clinical training for undergraduate and postgraduate veterinarians in wildlife health.

## 6. Central Energy Trust Wildbase Recovery Centre

The objective is to provide a publicly accessible wildlife rehabilitation facility and advocacy/education centre in the Victoria Esplanade Gardens in collaboration with Palmerston North City Council, Rangitane o Manawatu and the Department of Conservation.

An education programme for school children, from pre-school through to the early high school years is offered at the Wildbase Recovery centre. The programme teaches children about Aotearoa New Zealand's native wildlife with a focus on conservation, threats to our wildlife and what you can do to help. The programme was co-developed with Massey University and Massey University technicians often take part in the programme. The technicians provide information about current wildlife patients with the patients acting as "ambassadors" for their species and the perils facing them in the wild. There is no cost for the programme but donations are welcome. Wildbase tours are also offered for the general public so that they can learn more about New Zealand's native wildlife.

