

Lessons learned



ENVIRONMENT

A catalytic investor

Alongside the successes and milestones, there has been plenty of learning. Lessons in predator free include:

NEXT is most impactful as a catalytic investor

The Foundation shifted from being a sole funder, to being a partner, honest broker, and collaborator. Having multiple parties with skin in the game increases resilience and sustainability

Engaging subject matter experts

was instrumental in defining focus and in implementation

Seek **balance** and **equity** between Western and Te Ao Māori ways of doing things: there is a time and place for Western programmatic approaches and also for matauranga Māori values and ways of being. A Te Ao Māori worldview is a powerful and much needed way to approach environmental issues

Spend time on relationships and building trust

especially at the beginning of a new project.

This includes engaging iwi early and well, and engaging government while there is leverage

Good storytelling and advocacy matter and **increase your ability to influence**

Consider the mechanism/s that could help **make the result sustainable long term.**

The Tomorrow Accord with the Crown was a game changer

Initiatives always take longer and cost more than you expect.

Persevere!

Having the right team

with the ability to engage diverse stakeholders **matters**

Have fun!

Be a collective that people want to be with

EDUCATION

Focus for impact

Alongside the successes and milestones, there has been learning in education too. Those include:

Having **education experts full time** in the work, as happened in predator free, **would have led to even better outcomes**

The **size of the goal** needs to **align** with the **available resource**

Co-designing the work with expertise from the communities most impacted, including Māori and Pasifika **would have added value**

Securing government funding is hard work, involves luck, timing and you **can't assume participation**

Change takes time and that makes measuring the difference made in education even more complex.

Systemic drivers such as **inequity** are **considerations**

Teachers are nation builders and **need to be valued** professionally and financially

Long-term unrestricted funding enables the organisation to **focus on the cause** and **attract top talent**

Back and connect leaders

Begin the transition **conversation with grantees early** and be a **partner** in co-design