



Kea Recovery Group Five-year action plan

This Plan has been endorsed by the Kea Governance Group. Prioritisation of actions - **Essential (E):** Necessary to achieve the goals for kea over the term of this plan. Highest risk if not carried out within the timeframe and/or at the frequency specified. **High (H):** Necessary to achieve long-term goals. To be progressed and ideally completed within the term of this plan, with moderate risk if not carried out within the timeframe and/or at the frequency specified. **Medium (M):** Necessary to achieve long-term goals. To be progressed within the term of this plan, but with the least risk if not completed within the timeframe and/or at the frequency specified.

	Year 1 (July 2024–June 2025)	Year 2 (July 2025–June 2026)	Year 3 (July 2026–June 2027)	Years 4 & 5 (July 2027–June 2029)	Collaborators Who else may be involved & lead(s) in bold	Status
Theme: Understanding Kea						
Strategic Priority One Improve understanding of the current state of the kea population	Establish core study areas for movement, survivorship and productivity studies, include predator control and non-treatment areas (E) 1a		Measure kea response to predator control in different treatment and environmental contexts (E) 1a		DOC, KCT, TRONT	
	Expand toolkit of population trend measurement methods e.g. nest cavity occupancy, high-tech mark-recapture (e.g., using acoustic ID and/or radio frequency ID), occupancy modelling, flock size indices (H) 1b				DOC, KCT, TRONT, ZIP, Researchers	
	Research on historic range changes since human settlement including pre-European (M) 1c				Researchers, DOC, TRONT,	
	Collate, analyse and publish existing satellite tracking data (H) 1d				DOC, Researchers	
	Collate, analyse and publish existing nest survival data (e.g. Kahurangi, Rotoiti, Hawdon, Matukituki, Fiordland) (M) 1e				DOC, KCT	
Strategic Priority Two Ensure monitoring provides quality information to support management decisions	Establish a population trend measurement plan where method used is based on information needs at appropriate scales (E) 2a	Implement population trend measurement plan (E) 2a			DOC, KCT, TRONT	
	Develop Kea Survey Tool Phone App (H) 2b	Improve and maintain use of Kea Survey Tool (H) 2b			KCT, DOC, IT industry	
	Update inventory of lead remaining on structures on and off PCL within kea habitat, develop a prioritised system for ongoing removal and establish a coordinated				DOC, KCT, FMC, NZTF, NZDA, F&G	

	reporting system so that progress can be accurately monitored (H) 2c				
	Develop Kea blood-lead measurement and disease surveillance Programme (E) 2d				DOC, KCT, TRONT, Wildlife Vets, Researchers
Strategic Priority Three Ensure accurate, useable and accessible data contributes to kea conservation	Identify all relevant data sources and priority data sets to manage and establish accountability for data entry, curation and reporting (H) 3a				DOC, KCT, TRONT, ZIP, Researchers
	Set minimum standards for data collection and establish data sharing and access protocols (H) 3b				DOC, KCT, TRONT, ZIP
	Ensure all kea banding data is imported into Falcon database (H) 3c				DOC, KCT
	Develop KIMS as a multi-user kea database (E) 3d				DOC, KCT
	Establish Mātauranga research project to pull together existing myths, traditions, sightings and interactions with early Māori (E) 4a	Integrate this Mātauranga into future management (E) 4a			TRONT, TTI, DOC, KCT, Mana whenua, Researchers
Strategic Priority Four Develop new Mātauranga Maori approaches to understand kea					





Theme: Identify, prioritise and actively manage threats to kea

	Year 1 (July 2024–June 2025)	Year 2 (July 2025–June 2026)	Year 3 (July 2026–June 2027)	Years 4 & 5 (July 2027–June 2029)	Collaborators Who else may be involved & lead(s) in bold	Status
Strategic Priority Five Understand the relative impacts of the key threats to kea and prioritise conservation actions to achieve greatest gains for the kea population	Carry out population modelling based on existing data (E) 5a		Build a spatial population model to understand relative impacts of threats and guide management (including the ‘where’ to manage) using data collected as per actions within strategic priorities 1-4 (H) 5a		DOC , KCT, TRONT, Researchers, Manaaki Whenua	
	Update 1080 survival analysis and include results in population modelling (E) 5b				DOC , KCT, TRONT	
	Research drivers of predator dynamics in Eastern Ecosystems (needed for spatial population model) (H) 6a					DOC , Researchers, Manaaki Whenua
Strategic Priority Six Effectively control introduced predators to maintain kea presence throughout Te Wai Pounamu	Test the safety, efficacy and outcomes of new predator control tools at landscape scale (E) 6b				DOC , KCT, PF2050, Researchers, Pest Control Developers, ZIP, TRONT, OSPRI	
	Promote surveillance and control of feral cats in kea habitat (E) 6c				KCT , DOC , TRONT	
	Identify priority areas for effective kea-focused predator control based on existing knowledge, align with core research sites in action 1a (E) 6d	Design kea-focused predator control approach to be trialled at priority areas (E) 6d	Implement and measure responses as per actions 1a, 2a, 2b (E) 6d		DOC , KCT, TRONT, ZIP, PF2050, OSPRI	

Strategic Priority Seven Encourage the development of kea-safe predator control tools	Input into review of Kea Code of Practice for Aerial 1080 in Kea Habitat (E) 7a			DOC, KCT, TRONT	
	Promote use of the Kea Safe Predator Control manual to community trapping groups and key stakeholders (such as PFNZ) (H) 7b		Review of the Kea Safe Predator Control manual (H) 7b	KCT, DOC, TRONT	
	Advocate for new kea safe predator control tools and work with developers to achieve these (E) 7c			DOC, KCT, TRONT, Orillion, Manaaki Whenua, ZIP, Researchers, PF2050, OSPRI	
	Support testing risk to kea of new predator control tools as per action 6b (H) 7d			DOC, KCT, TRONT	
Strategic Priority Eight Eliminate lead poisoning	Maintain and report on kea blood-lead level measurement programme as in action 2d (H) 8a			DOC, KCT, TRONT	
	Support and advocate for DOC and KCT's Lead Removal Programme (H) 8b			DOC, KCT, TRONT	
	Report on progress of lead removal programme as in action 2c (H) 8c			DOC, KCT, TRONT	
	Complete research to identify relative contribution of lead sources across kea range (lead isotope analysis) (E) 8d			Researchers, DOC, KCT, TRONT,	
	Advocate for non-lead ammunition use in kea habitat (H) 8e			KCT, DOC, TRONT	
Strategic Priority Nine Identify and monitor potential negative impacts of climate change on kea and mitigate these where possible	Review climate change vulnerability assessment for kea to understand further actions required (H) 9a			DOC, KCT, TRONT	
	Incorporate monitoring of potential climate change effects into kea population trend measurement plan as in action 2a (H) 9b			DOC, NIWA, MFE, Manaaki Whenua, Researchers	
			Incorporate potential climate change effects into spatial population modelling as in action 5a (H) 9c		DOC, KCT, TRONT, Researchers, Manaaki Whenua





Theme: Living in harmony with humans						
	Year 1 (July 2024–June 2025)	Year 2 (July 2025–June 2026)	Year 3 (July 2026–June 2027)	Years 4 & 5 (July 2027–June 2029)	Collaborators Who else may be involved & lead(s) in bold	Status
Strategic Priority Ten Actively advocate for kea to encourage positive co-existence throughout their range	Promote the taonga status of kea, what this means, and appropriate human behaviours, etc. (E) 10a				TRONT, DOC, KCT	
	Complete kea advocacy toolbox (E) 10b		Implement and improve kea advocacy toolbox (H) 10b		ZAA, KCT, DOC, TRONT	
	Maintain KCT local community support programmes including local conflict response roles (H) 10c				KCT, DOC, TRONT	
	Maintain KCT mobile school education programme (H) 10d				KCT, DOC, TRONT	
	Pursue commercial partnership opportunities to reach wider audience for advocacy (H) 10e				DOC, KCT, TRONT	
Strategic Priority Eleven Mitigate human-induced injury and death to kea	Set up conflict register (H) 11a	Maintain and promote use of conflict register (H) 11a			KCT, DOC	
	Develop conflict management toolbox (E) 11b	Maximise accessibility and promote use of conflict management toolbox (E) 11b			KCT, DOC	
	Pursue and support potential traffic management solutions at Arthur’s Pass Village (H) 11c				DOC, KCT, TRONT	
	Retain and further develop local community conflicts response positions in conflict hotspots (E) 11d				KCT, DOC, TRONT	
Strategic Priority Twelve Reduce feeding of wild kea	Roll out newly designed ‘do not feed’ signage (E) 12a				DOC, KCT, TRONT	
	Complete social science segmentation study and publish results (E) 12b	Integrate findings of social science studies into kea advocacy toolbox as in action 10b (E) 12b			DOC, TRONT, KCT, Researchers	
	Input into Wildlife Act Review and support amendment to existing Wildlife Act (E) 12d				DOC, KCT, TRONT	
	Annual review of kea scrounging sites (H) 12e				DOC, KCT	

	Design method to measure scrounging rates (i.e. measure kea visitation and scrounging success) (H) 12f			DOC	
Strategic Priority Thirteen Ensure the captive population is actively managed to increase education, advocacy and research potential	Finalise Captive Husbandry Manual (E) 13a			ZAA, DOC, KCT, TRONT	
	Introduce auditing /review procedure for Captive Husbandry Manual (E) 13b	Carry out a nationwide audit/review of kea holders in captivity (E) 13b		DOC, KCT, TRONT, ZAA	
		Review long-term plan for captive kea population (H) (13c)		DOC, ZAA, KCT, TRONT	
			Implement kea advocacy toolbox across captive holders (E) 13d	ZAA, DOC, KCT, TRONT	
Funding Improve collaboration between interested parties and advocate for additional resources	Explore additional funding opportunities and models including commercial sponsorship (E) F1a	Implement additional funding models (E) F1b		DOC, TRONT, KCT, WPT, ZAA, PF2050, ZIP, Others	

DOC – Department of Conservation; TRONT – Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu; TTI – Ngā Iwi o Te Taihū; KCT Kea Conservation Trust; ZAA – Zoo & Aquarium Association Australasia; WPT – World Parrot Trust; ZIP – Zero Invasive Predators; PF2050 – Predator Free 2050; MfE – Ministry for the Environment; NIWA – National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research

