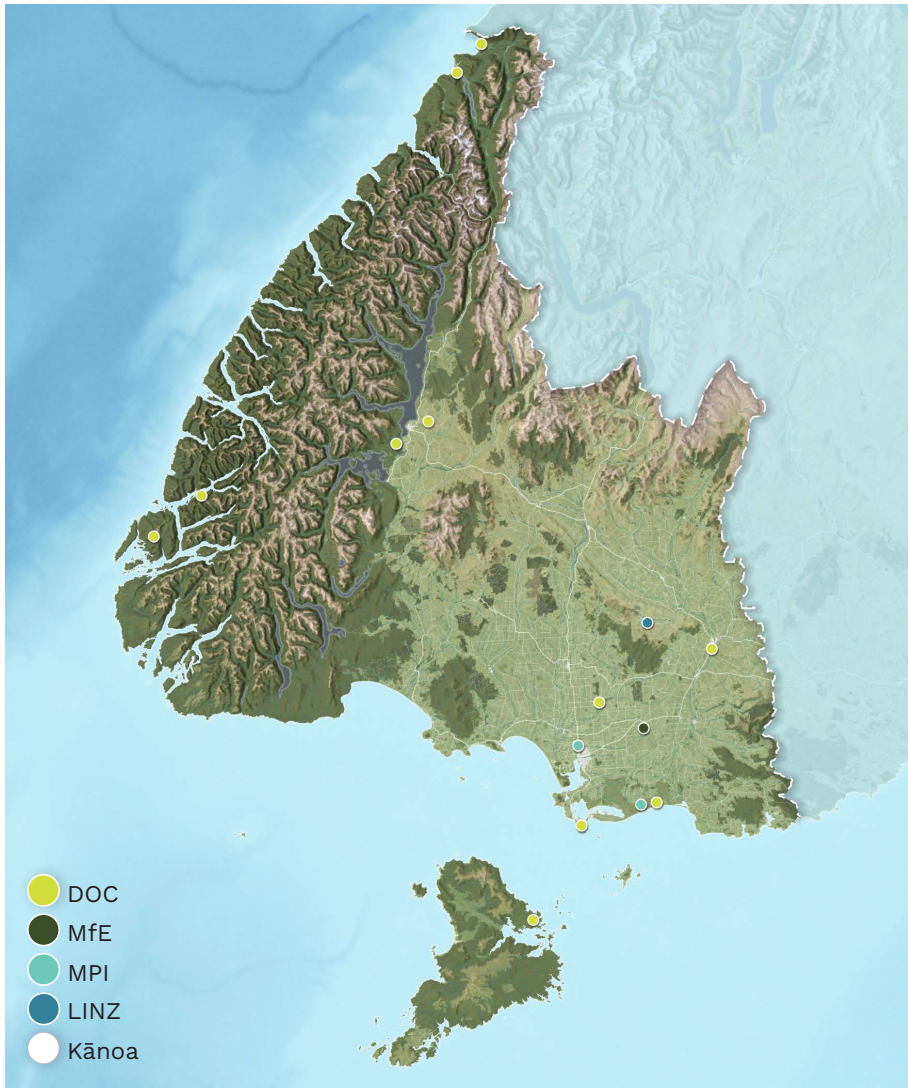


Purpose: To show the Jobs for Nature investment to date in the Southland region and the significance of funding in the context of economic and environmental challenges.



Map sourced from Land Information New Zealand 2023

Significance of Jobs for Nature (J4N) funding to the Southland region during the COVID-19 pandemic

Economic and employment impacts: Infometrics and Great South projected the following: During the COVID-19 lockdowns, the Southland economy remained resilient, largely due to agriculture and food manufacturing being classified as essential and continuing operations.¹ However, the region was not entirely shielded from the pandemic’s effects, particularly the loss of international tourism, which affected their hospitality and retail sectors.

By March 2021, it was anticipated that there would be a 9.5% decrease in jobs, equating to approximately 5,050 individuals. This was slightly less than the 9.8% decline expected for all of New Zealand during the same period.²

Between 2020 and 2022, it was estimated that job losses among the Māori population would be around 2%. Most of these job losses were expected to occur in the tourism industry, particularly in Te Anau and Milford Sound.

Environmental challenges facing the region

Climate change: The Southland region is expected to experience warmer temperatures throughout the year, drier summers, and extended periods of relatively higher temperatures. Average annual rainfall is projected to increase, mostly in winter and spring, and is likely to occur in more intense events.³

Southland experienced severe flooding in February 2020 causing damage to infrastructure, housing, and impacting farming and tourism. By April 2021 the total cost of the clean-up was anticipated to reach \$4,640,000.⁴

Water quality: Rivers and streams in the developed areas of Southland generally have high levels of sediment, nitrogen, and phosphorus. These levels are some of the highest in the country. Sediment and faecal bacteria levels across the region are also high compared with the national average.⁵

Biodiversity losses and deforestation: The unique indigenous flora and fauna of Southland are under threat.⁶ In 2010, Southland had 1.49 million hectares of natural forest, extending over 49% of its land area. In 2022, it lost 809 hectares of natural forest. Deforestation can lead to loss of biodiversity, increased carbon dioxide levels, and disruption of water cycles.

How is J4N investment addressing environmental challenges facing the region while creating employment opportunities?

Data as at 30 September 2023

Funding	\$34 million across 19 projects
Employment opportunities	762
Hours worked	391,290

In Southland J4N is delivering a range of benefits, primarily through projects focused on ecosystem restoration, pest control, and capability development. Benefits include:⁷

Improved biodiversity through ecosystem restoration

Projects like the Fiordland Undaria control programme, Te Tapu O Tāne, and Southland Biodiversity Action on the Ground are working to help restore damaged ecosystems. They do this by getting rid of harmful species that don't belong, planting local trees, and helping to repair wetlands.

Projects such as the Tamatea/Dusky Sound restoration project, Big Bay Awarua, and Hokonui Rūnanga Catlins Biodiversity Project are focused on controlling harmful animal pests. These investments are helping our ecosystems to function properly and provide services like nutrients and water cycling, soil formation, and resistance against invasive species.

Increased skills and capabilities of employees

Many Southland projects involve training and employing local people in activities like pest control, ecosystem restoration, and nursery management. For example, the Murihikunui Regeneration aims to train young people in these areas. This helps to improve the skills and job opportunities for people in the local community.

Cultural heritage benefits

Projects like Mahinga Kai, Te Wai Parera Trust, and the Hokonui Restoration support the preservation of indigenous knowledge, traditions, and practices, as well as the protection and restoration of culturally significant landscapes and ecosystems.

Recreation and tourism benefits

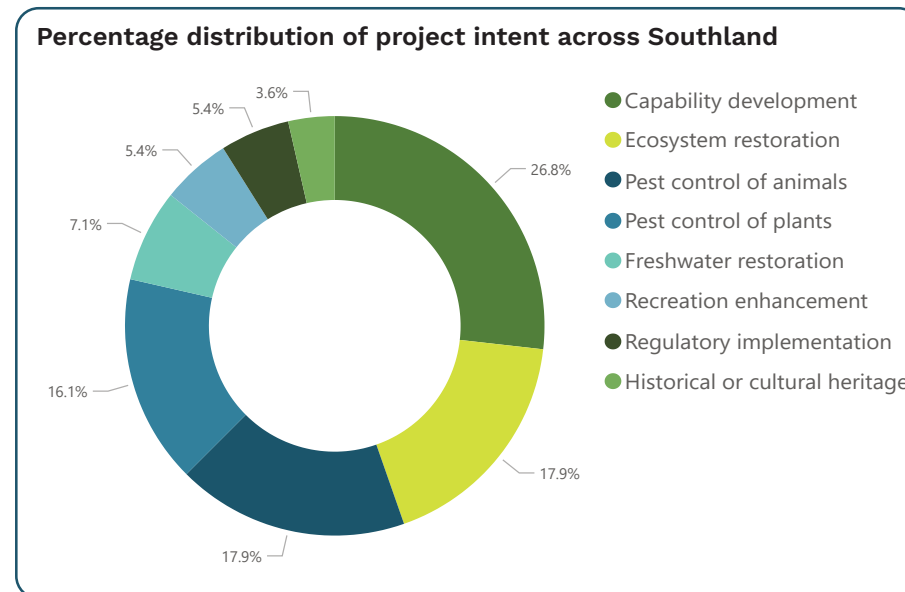
The Hokonui Rūnanga Catlins Biodiversity Project and Bringing the Park to the People (FTT) improve recreational facilities like trail networks. This leads to improved wellbeing by making these areas more enjoyable for people to visit.

Overview of labour market participation in the Southland region

Labour market	
Working age population	103,900 (2023)
Labour force participation rate	72.7%, with an estimated average of 58,100 employed (2023)
Employment rate ⁸	69.4% (2023)
Median annual household income ⁹	\$100,800 (2023)
Unemployment rate ¹⁰	2.7% (2023) NEET rate: 11.7 (2023)

Māori	
Population	15.1% (14,484) (2018)
Working age	12,000 (2020)
Participation ¹¹	78.0% (2023)
Unemployment rate ¹²	4.5% (2023)

Pasifika	
Population	2.7% (2,523) (2018)
Working age	1,900 (2020)
Participation ¹³	72.7% (2023)
Unemployment rate	12.5% (2020)



Source [Q1 Data as at 30 September 2023]

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