Where have all the takahē gone?

Photo Credit: Andrew Hawke

An investigation into the impact of introduced mammals on the distribution of takahē in New Zealand.

Introduction:

Introduced mammals have had a devastating effect on New Zealand's endemic species since the arrival of humans in this country.

For more than 65 years attempts to save takahē have pioneered conservation techniques for protected species in New Zealand and around the world.

The Takahē Recovery Programme involves a network of people throughout New Zealand, working together to ensure the takahē is never again considered 'extinct'. Their work includes an intensively managed breeding programme, genetic management, research, monitoring, wild releases and island translocations, and stoat and deer control.

In this unit you will:

- examine the rich biodiversity of New Zealand's flora and fauna
- explore the reasons for the vulnerability of these endemic species (considering biological, historical, geological and geographical aspects)
- consider the impact of introduced species on New Zealand's biodiversity
- reflect on the moral / philosophical justification for any conservation actions needed / taken to address this problem

For your investigation:
Specifically, you will consider the plight of the takahē and investigate:

- current data which will enable you to gain an appreciation of the seriousness of the problem caused by introduced mammals
- the evidence there is to show that introduced species and abiotic factors have affected the community in which wild takahē are found. You will look at data for the numbers and distribution of takahē and any patterns you may observe
- the biology of the takahē including its ecological niche and adaptations
- the communities in which the takahē live and examine the interrelationships within these communities along with any environmental factors which may affect their distribution.

At the end of your investigation you will prepare a report which will be submitted for assessment for: **Achievement Standard 91158 Biology 2.6 (version2)**

ZEALANDIA
TE MĀRA A TĀNE