

## Final Accountability Report

### Question B7 – Tell us how Lottery Grants Board contributed to the outcomes of your project.

The most significant contribution to our project **'Where the Wild Things Are '** has been to have the funding to employ a field worker to protect habitat for lizards, to establish monitoring equipment, and for a contractor to carry out lizard monitoring. Without the capacity to protect habitat from the ravages of pests none of this research project to identify the variety of lizard species present and to monitor population densities could have happened in the Windy Hill Rosalie Bay Catchment Trust Sanctuary on Great Barrier Island.

The Trust particularly appreciates having 18 months to use the funding allocated as this has allowed us to extend the project further.

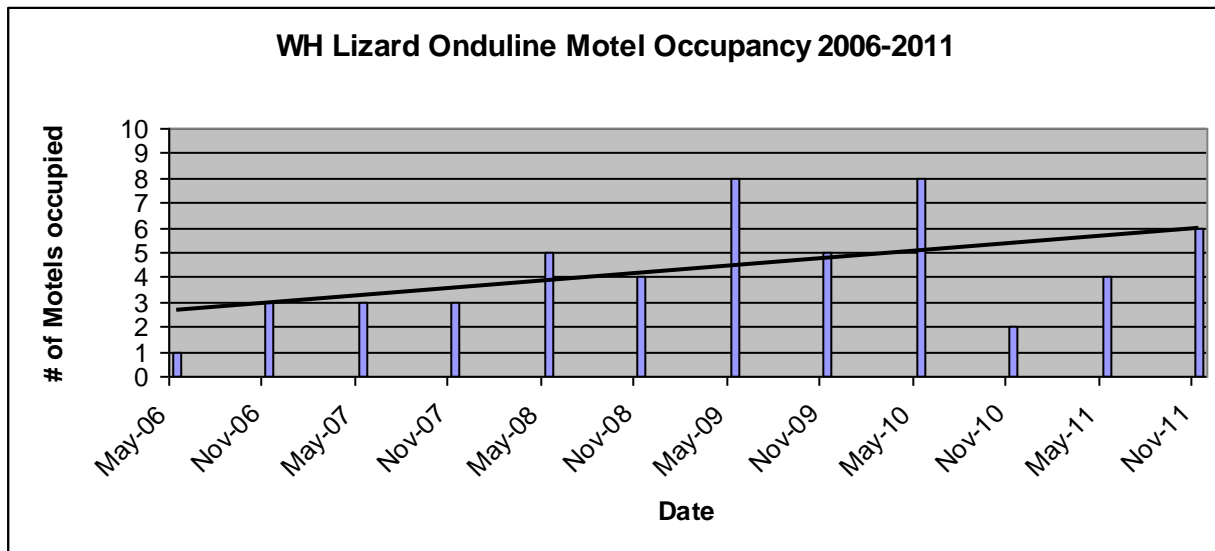
The training of field staff and further establishment of monitoring stations has been completed with some 300 Onduline stacks put in both the Sanctuary area and in our unmanaged Control site. These, and the already established 400 foam cell covers that form the basis for the Landcare Research lizard project being carried out here, were checked in February/ March. A further check of Onduline stacks for lizards was also carried out in May and November. Results are graphed below.



Onduline Stacks



Foam Cell covers used to monitor lizards



A summary report "Lizard Monitoring in Windy Hill Sanctuary during 2011 season" is attached giving details of the findings. There were significantly higher presence and abundance of Pacific and forest geckos in the sanctuary area though the reverse for copper skinks. The survey indicated the presence of Copper skinks, Moko skinks, Ornate skinks, Forest and Pacific Geckos and this was confirmed by further monitoring using G-minnow traps.

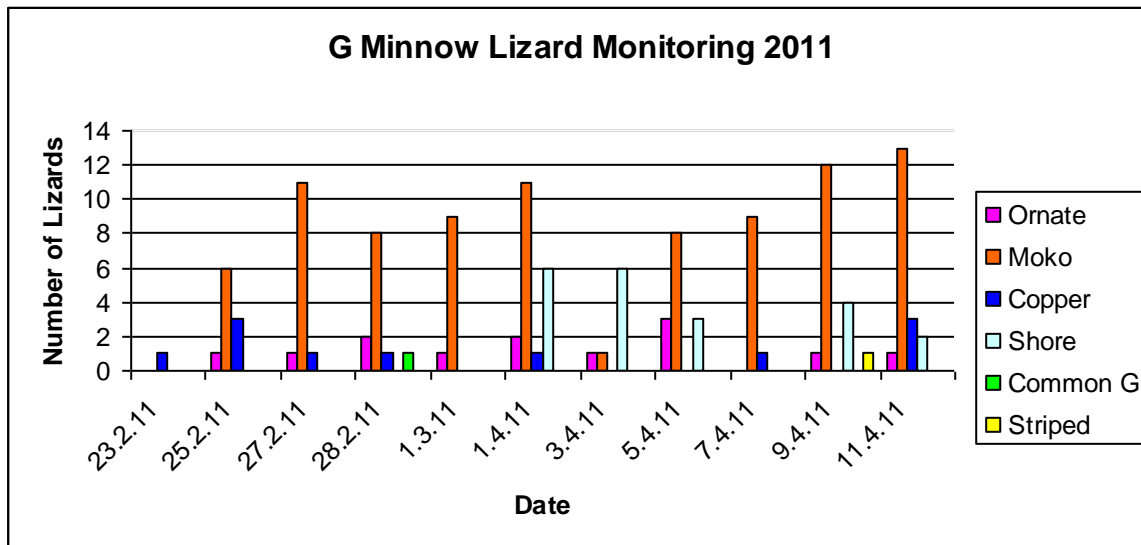
In January a very rare Duvaucels gecko was found (unfortunately dead) in a rat trap. This confirmed that Duvaucels were still present on Great Barrier with the only other confirmed sighting being in 1970, some 40 years ago. Follow up monitoring for a live specimen use G-Minnow traps over some four areas was not successful but did give further indication of the range of species present – shore skink, ornate skink, the uncommon striped skink, moko skinks, common skinks, and the common gecko. Both adult and juveniles of most species were represented.



Field worker Jess Rutherford checking the G-Minnow traps for Duvaucels



The Duvaucels gecko caught in a trap



A Windy Hill lizard field guide designed by EcoGecko has proven to be a valuable field tool and is to be adapted by DoC for use in the greater Auckland area. A copy was sent with our interim report.



One of the eight Lizard houses built and in situ in the Big Windy Hill project area.

Eight lizard 'houses' have also been established in the Big Windy Hill project area and are checked twice a year. These have been used by invertebrates, in particular weta, with 2 moko skinks, a Pacific gecko, and a forest gecko in residence when checked in May and November this year. A map of all lizard monitoring sites is attached.

The work of sustaining the biodiversity and protecting habitat has continued well with the addition of the field workers position created from this grant. Not only do

our lizards and other native species show conservation gains but we are achieving some of our lowest rat tracking tunnel percentages in the autumn since we started tracking tunnels in 2004.

The chart below shows the tracking tunnel percentages by pest managed area for 2010 -2011:

	LWH	BH Bush	BH Paddock	Big Windy	Rosalie Bay	Control unmanaged
Jan 10	9	8	0	5	0	40
Apr 10	25	5	4	11	12.5	70
July 10	19	5	0	17	19	90
Sept 10	12	8	4	5	0	100
Nov 10	6	11	8	11	12.5	80
Jan 11	5	5	0	0	20	40
Apr 11	7.5	0	5	0	30	70
July 11	10	5	35	20	0	45
Sep 11	7.5	10	15	10	50	60
Nov 11	12.5	20	0	10	10	65

LWH = Little Windy Hill, BH=Benthorn Farm

The variability in some of these percentages is the result of different methodology, different tools and toxins, and requests from landowners to change methods for periods of time.

In August 2012 the results of Lizard Monitoring will be presented at the Sanctuaries of NZ workshop. Lizard news has also been reported in the Great Barrier Island Trust newsletters. Copies are enclosed with this report.

Some of the data has been added to the DoC and Landcare Data bases increasing national knowledge about the state of lizards.

If funding is granted, an application is being prepared to translocate Towns skinks and Hochstetters frogs into the sanctuary. This work has been recommended from the Herpetofaunal Survey Report and Management Plan for WHRBCTrust completed by Trent Bell of Eco-Gecko in November 2010. A full copy of this report was provided recently to Lotteries Environment.

All of the objectives listed in the 'Where the Wild Things Are' Project Summary provided with our application have been met.