

ROLE DESCRIPTION – Field Ranger

Zero Invasive Predators

Location: Twizel or Franz Josef

Reporting to: Field Team Lead

Context

Zero Invasive Predators

Zero Invasive Predators Ltd (ZIP) is a registered company and charity that was established in February 2015 by the Department of Conservation and NEXT Foundation.

The mission of ZIP is to *“rapidly develop technology to enable permanent elimination of key threats to native plants and animals.”*

Eliminating threats to biodiversity

New Zealand has traditionally managed pest animals by suppressing their populations. Often this means an initial operation to reduce pest numbers, followed by ongoing cyclical control. This results in a boom-and-bust type impact on pest populations, and limits the recovery of native species and ecosystems. Given finite resources, the enduring cost of this approach also restricts the scale at which pest populations can be managed.

The launch of the Predator Free 2050 mission in 2016 introduced a new goal: to eliminate, rather than suppress, invasive predators across Aotearoa. Elimination focuses on removing every individual target pest from an area, and then managing incursion to prevent these pests from re-establishing.

New Zealand is already a world leader in eliminating invasive species from offshore islands, and within fenced sanctuaries, but achieving this at landscape scale on the mainland is a challenge that requires new tools and techniques. ZIP’s role is to develop methods to (1) eliminate invasive pest animals from large mainland areas, and (2) quickly detect and remove any invaders before they are able to re-establish a population.

This approach is now being developed and implemented to enable elimination of invasive pests from large sites around New Zealand.

More information about ZIP is available at <https://zip.org.nz>.

Purpose of the role

Develop and implement a new approach to restore nature by eliminating key threats to native plants and animals.

The job will involve:

- Setting traps, handling toxins, and humanely euthanising wild animals
- Sharing your observations and collecting high quality data from the field
- Finding and clearing routes

- Working and navigating off track
- Crossing rough terrain on foot, including crossing rivers, while carrying a pack of up to 15 kg
- Loading equipment to and from vehicles, including helicopters
- Working alone for up to 8 hours a day, during all seasons, with exposure to wind, rain, sun and snow
- Using hand and power tools
- Using an All-Terrain Vehicle (ATV) in rugged terrain

Other tasks may include:

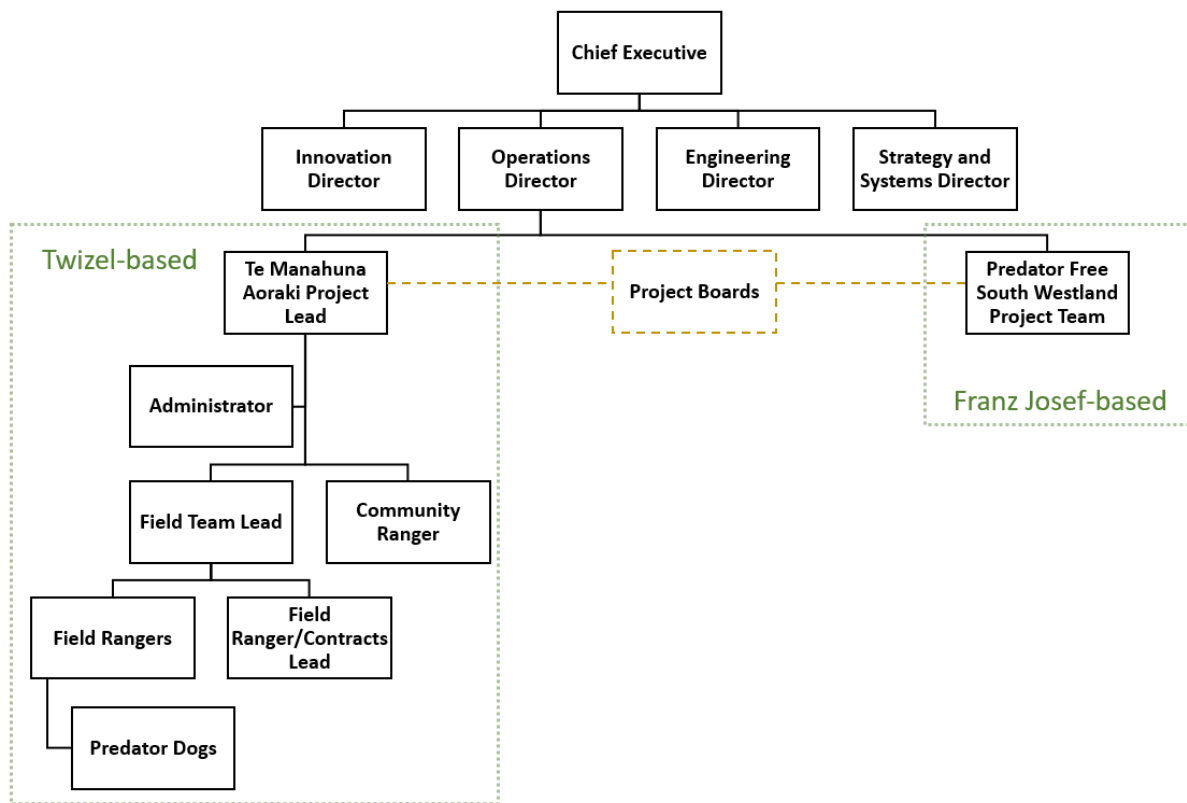
- Modifying and improving predator traps and detection tools in the field site
- Working alongside the local community and rural landowners, including on private property
- Establishing and maintaining field infrastructure, field cameras, tracks and huts
- Helping to evaluate and improve engineering prototypes, particularly in relation to field reliability and performance
- Monitoring the impact of interventions, including native species response

To succeed in this role, you will need to be:

- practical, with a can-do attitude
- experienced and competent at spending long hours outdoors each day, often by yourself, working in rough terrain
- willing and able to demonstrate a proactive and practical Health & Safety culture, for yourself, team members, contractors and visitors to site
- willing to be 'embedded' in the work – not just to work hard and to a high standard, but also to contribute your feedback about the performance of individual tools and techniques and other related observations
- able to quickly acquire, understand and apply new job-related information, knowledge and skills
- comfortable working with digital technology, e.g. capturing data using a phone-based app
- excellent attention to detail
- willing to give your feedback, share observations from the field, and solve issues as they arise
- willing to quickly adapt plans as priorities and conditions change
- familiar with the use of outdoor communications technology, including radio, personal locator beacon (PLB), and inReach tracker
- comfortable sharing accommodation with a small team, and willing to contribute to cooking and cleaning duties

A current Controlled Substance Licence, driver's licence, ATV licence and First Aid Certification are an advantage.

Organisation Structure



Team Culture

People – our team, conservation partners and other stakeholders – are always our number one priority, without exception. We are caring, connected, empowered and innovative.

Within this context, some of the values and principles we follow include:

- Keep people safe
- Communicate openly
- Work with others to enable a change in practice
- Empower and trust the team
- Rapidly find and deploy solutions
- Strive for continuous improvement