



ASIA-PACIFIC
SPATIAL EXCELLENCE AWARDS

NATIONAL WINNER

Ethos Environmental Beyond Glenfern Sanctuary

Scott Sambell and his team at Ethos Environmental were chosen for their project “Beyond Glenfern Sanctuary”, which looks at the challenges to the conservation industry in New Zealand.

Ethos Environmental has been working to create a safe haven for threatened native species for over 20 years. The team created a GIS for recording and analysing data on rat and feral cat incursions. They also developed a GIS for monitoring biodiversity gains - in particular, the influx of previously locally extinct seabirds.

Our judges loved the project’s application of IoT with spatial techniques and welcomed the difference that approach could make in remote, hard-to-manage areas.

Ethos Environmental has performed extensive advocacy work with many groups and agencies to advance the use of GIS in larger-scale conservation goals. The tools they’ve developed have since been used by the Department of Conservation: Conservation Dogs Program, research project Zero Invasive Predators, and ecologist drone company Flightworks to detect pest weed species.

While Glenfern Sanctuary is only a small 240-hectare area, Ethos Environmental is collaborating with thousands of other conservation areas in a grand attempt to eradicate New Zealand of certain invasive mammals. Our judges applauded this bold goal.

Scott’s enthusiasm for the project is palpable, and, through spatially enabling, Ethos Environmental has given New Zealand a real chance to deliver on its high targets for environmental sustainability.