

PREDATOR FREE 2050



Predator Free 2050 is an ambitious programme to rid New Zealand of three of the most damaging introduced predators threatening our natural taonga, our economy and primary sector.

Ridding New Zealand of possums, rats and stoats by 2050 is a New Zealand-wide goal requiring new technologies and a coordinated team effort across communities, iwi, and the public and private sectors.

The Predator Free 2050 programme will deliver huge benefits across New Zealand – for the social and cultural links with our environment, for our regional economies through primary industries and tourism, and for our threatened native species.

Building from a strong base

New Zealand is a world leader in conservation technology and research. We have already made progress once unthinkable because of:

- ▶ Tens of thousands of committed community volunteers and private landowners already working on habitat protection
- ▶ Philanthropic and community-led initiatives, including fenced sanctuaries, large-scale predator control projects such as Cape to City in the Hawkes Bay and Project Janszoon in Abel Tasman National Park, and predators being targeted across whole suburbs

- ▶ Significant investment in predator management by councils and OSPRI
- ▶ New predator-control techniques, such as self-resetting traps and predator-specific toxins
- ▶ Continual refinement of techniques to make them safer and more cost-effective, such as GPS-guided aerial application of 1080.

We have cleared all predators from more than 100 islands and many fenced sanctuaries, and trials are under way to secure other mainland sites without using fences.

New Zealand
dotterel/tūturiwhatu.
Photo: Herb Christophers



Department of
Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai

A goal that can be achieved

Predator Free 2050 builds on the efforts already under way across communities, iwi, private businesses, philanthropists, scientists and government.

Although we do not currently have the technology to achieve a predator-free New Zealand, one focus of the Predator Free 2050 programme is to develop a breakthrough eradication technology.

The Government is showing its commitment with an extra \$7 million a year. This is on top of more than \$70 million already spent each year on predator control by DOC, councils and OSPRI. Contributions from businesses, iwi, communities, and philanthropists are additional to this.

New funding will go towards:

- ▶ Large-scale collaborative predator-control projects
- ▶ Breakthrough scientific research into control and eradication
- ▶ Increased support for community-led projects
- ▶ Improving the current control tools and technology

Existing predator-control activities are essential to sustain our threatened species now, and are teaching us lessons for securing their future.

The Government set four interim 2025 goals for the programme:

1. Suppress target predators on a further 1 million hectares
2. Eradicate predators from blocks of at least 20,000 hectares without the use of fences
3. Eradicate all predators from offshore island nature reserves
4. Achieve a breakthrough science solution capable of eradicating at least one small mammal predator

How to get involved

There are many opportunities for you to get involved at an individual or community level. Check out:

- ▶ doc.govt.nz/predator-free-2050

To offer financial support, email:

- ▶ predatorfree2050@doc.govt.nz



Ship rat eating native snail.
Photo: Ngā Manu Images

Introduced predators: *the bad guys*

Possums, rats and stoats kill millions of native birds every year and have pushed many species to the brink of extinction. Managing just these three predators for agriculture and conservation costs more than \$70 million per year.

Predator Free 2050 will:

- ▶ Remove the major threats to our native wildlife
- ▶ Enhance economic returns from agriculture and forestry and reduce the risk of disease
- ▶ Create new opportunities for regional development
- ▶ Reinforce New Zealand's trade and tourism brand
- ▶ Provide a legacy for future generations.

Silvereye/tauhou.
Photo: JJ Harrison (CC BY-SA 2.0)

