

PREDATOR FREE 2050

Your guide to Predator Free 2050



Department of
Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai



PREDATOR FREE 2050
TUIA TE TĀIAO

Our vision

Imagine an Aotearoa New Zealand where native species are safe from extinction and thriving alongside us. We all want New Zealand's unique and ancient birds, frogs, lizards and plants to flourish and the mauri or life force of Papatūānuku to be strong.

Introduced predators threaten nature

Sadly, introduced mustelids (stoats, weasels and ferrets), rats, feral cats and possums threaten the survival of native plants and animals in New Zealand. Having evolved separately from the rest of the world over millions of years, this country's native animals have no defences against introduced mammalian predators. Today, these predators kill an estimated 25 million native birds each year, and some 4000 native species are threatened or at risk of extinction – one of the highest proportions in the world. We need bold action to secure a future for the precious native plants and animals of New Zealand.

Our goal

New Zealand has set an ambitious goal:

Eradicate the most damaging introduced predators (mustelids, rats, feral cats and possums) from all of Aotearoa New Zealand by 2050.

What is eradication?

Eradication means the complete removal of predators. Eradication is much more difficult to achieve than controlling predator numbers because it requires more resources, new tools and detailed planning, and it also means we must be able to stop predators coming back into the area once they've gone.

For endangered native animals and plants, eradication could mean the difference between living on the edge of extinction and thriving. If you have been to a fenced sanctuary or predator-free island, you will have seen and heard the difference!

Eradication is challenging but worth it for New Zealand's treasured species. Since pests were eradicated from Kapiti Island in 1996, some lizard populations have grown 28-fold and around 1200 kiwi pukupuku / little spotted kiwi now call the island home. The dawn chorus is deafening with songs of kākā, tūi and kākāriki.



Scientist Hugh Robertson on Stewart Island/Rakiura with a kiwi.
Photo: Sabine Bernert



Predator-free islands give us a window into the future of what Predator Free 2050 will look like. When introduced predators are completely removed from these islands, native plants and animals thrive. New Zealanders can also enjoy a deepened connection to nature, flourishing wildlife, recreation and active tourism.



Hoiho / yellow-eyed penguins on predator free island, Enderby Island.
Photo: Rachael Sagar

Why we need Predator Free

New Zealanders' connections to this land and its wildlife run deep – through whakapapa, spiritual and emotional connections, mental health and wellbeing, physical enjoyment, and economic prosperity.

Our economy depends heavily on nature through tourism, forestry, agriculture, infrastructure, property, energy, recreation and more.



Takahē. Photo: Sabine Bennett

Predator Free 2050 will have big benefits for both individual people and for our country as a whole. Outcomes will include the following.

- Indigenous plants and wildlife return to abundance and richness.
- Ecosystems are restored to health and more resilient to climate change.
- Whānau, hapū and iwi express kaitiakitanga and rangatiratanga.
- Generations of New Zealanders reconnect with the natural environment.
- The international standing of New Zealand is increased through predator management, innovation and expertise.

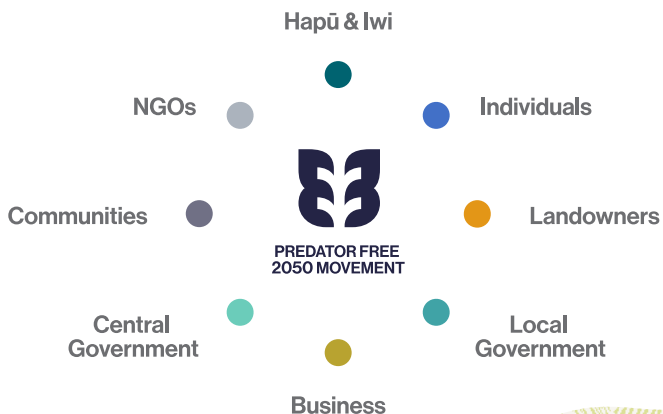
Who is involved

With so many organisations having ‘Predator Free’ in their name, it can be confusing to know who is involved and who is leading the programme.

The Predator Free movement brings together iwi and hapū, individuals, non-governmental organisations (NGOs), businesses, central government, local government, community groups, landowners, and New Zealanders from all walks of life. Predator Free 2050 is a first-of-its-kind collaboration, drawing on the combined strengths of hundreds of organisations and hundreds of thousands of individuals.

This movement isn’t new. It builds on the legacy of hardworking people who had been protecting native plants and animals for a long time before the Predator Free 2050 goal was announced.

The Predator Free tohu (symbol) shows why so many people and organisations are committed to achieving the Predator Free goal. It reflects the connections people have with te taiao, the natural world. You may see the tohu on traps, bumper stickers, websites and more. Any individual, group or organisation that supports the Predator Free movement can use the tohu, and it can be downloaded from the Tuia te Taiao website.



DOC's role

Leadership: DOC leads the national programme. With input from communities and collaborators, DOC develops the overarching strategy and detailed work plan that sets out the steps to reach our shared goal.

Collaboration: DOC seeks advice from about 30 national organisations to shape our work. This advice facilitates planning and directs investment to projects that make the biggest difference for nature.

Action: DOC controls predators on public conservation land, leads eradications on islands, invests in science and innovation, supports predator-free landscape projects, trains people, tells stories, and engages communities. It plays a key role in mobilising communities, innovating for eradication and achieving predator-free goals.



Setting traps at Travis Wetland. Photo: Belle Gwilliam

Key national organisations

Eradicating mustelids, rats, feral cats and possums will require widespread involvement right across New Zealand. DOC or any single organisation won't achieve the goal alone – collaboration is key. Iwi and hapū, landowners, local government, central government agencies, science providers, educators, innovators, businesses, sanctuaries, and environmental NGOs all have significant roles to play in helping us achieve the goal.

There are some organisations that have been set up specifically to help New Zealand become predator free.

Predator Free New Zealand Trust



An independent charitable trust that inspires, enables and empowers community groups and the public to get involved in the Predator Free movement.

Zero Invasive Predators (ZIP)



A charitable company developing innovative tools and approaches to completely remove predators from large landscapes and protect them from reinvasion.

How we will do it

Predator Free 2050 is a massive undertaking and requires active communities, innovation and new ways of working together – and we've got a strategy to get us there. The Predator Free 2050 Strategy lays out three key actions as the path towards a predator-free New Zealand.

1 Mobilise

The support and commitment from communities and organisations is key to achieving Predator Free 2050 – it is a collective effort and everyone has a role to play. To achieve this world-first goal, we are setting up support systems and policies, securing resources, and engaging sectors and communities in taking action.

How we've made progress

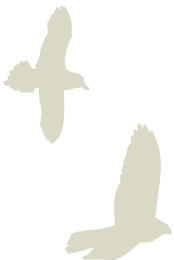
The Predator Free movement has made big strides in mobilising New Zealand for Predator Free 2050. In a short time, we've seen an explosion of more than 9000 trap.nz groups controlling predators by trapping.

2 Innovate

If you've ever thought that Predator Free 2050 is impossible with the tools we're using now, you're right. We need new tools to achieve a Predator Free New Zealand by 2050. That's why the Predator Free movement is investing in innovating the new and transformational tools we'll need to eradicate predators.

How we've made progress

Predator Free 2050 is one of New Zealand's largest investments in research and development for nature. In the first 5 years, the programme has invested a whopping \$43 million in tools, research and software for predator eradication. Inventors, designers, scientists and engineers are working hard to grow our toolbox.

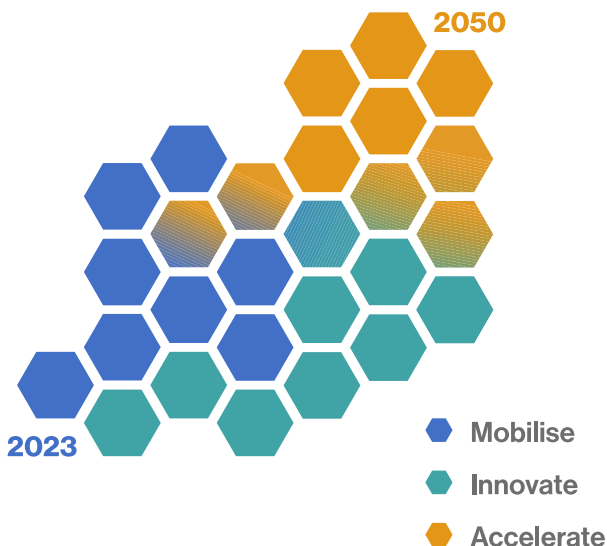


3 Accelerate

Once we have the right support systems, active communities and appropriate tools, we can accelerate eradicating predators across New Zealand. We're not ready to progress eradication across mainland New Zealand just yet, but the foundational work that is underway in innovating tools and mobilising communities and systems will get us there.

How we've made progress

DOC and our collaborators are already world leaders in predator eradication. New Zealand achieved its first predator-free island in 1960, and over the last 70 years, we've built on that success by exponentially scaling up eradication to bigger and bigger islands. New Zealand has now eradicated predators on about 140 islands, and we'll use what we've learnt on these islands over decades to achieve eradication on the mainland.



Making progress towards a predator-free New Zealand

The Predator Free movement has already had the following achievements.



Over 9000 trapping projects across the country sharing their progress on trap.nz



Upskilled trappers, with over 1600 people attending trap training micro-credential workshops and more than 50,000 copies of trapping guides shared



30+ national organisations working together in the programme to guide predator-free work



Iwi and hapū expressing rangatiratanga by leading four landscape projects and using innovation grounded in mātauranga Māori



Successful eradications on around 140 islands in New Zealand



A 91% increase in native birds in the world's first predator-free urban area in Te Motu Kairangi/Miramar Peninsula in Wellington



People living on Waiheke Island and in Wellington now sharing their suburbs with kiwi



Science and innovation producing new tools and technologies like cameras with artificial intelligence, new smart traps, and potential future tools like genetic techniques to suppress predator fertility



20 predator-free landscape projects protecting native species on areas over 18 times the size of Lake Taupō/Taupōmoana



Predator Free Rakiura beginning their first trial to build towards the largest eradication project in New Zealand

How to get involved

Your individual actions help nature. If we all play a part in supporting Predator Free 2050, the difference will be even greater, more visible and long lasting.

Join a community group or landscape project

There are 20 predator-free landscape groups and hundreds of community trapping groups throughout the country contributing towards a predator-free New Zealand. Find one near you.

Trap predators in your own backyard

You can make a difference by setting traps in your garden and catching predators like rats, possums and stoats.

Make your garden welcoming for native animals

Planting native plants and providing habitat can make your garden a welcoming space for precious native animals.

Donate a trap or funds to a predator-free project of trapping group

Donate to a project or gift traps directly to community groups who need them to keep predator numbers low.

Spread the word

You can also help by sharing the Predator Free story with your friends, family and online communities.

Visit your local predator-free sanctuary or island

Connect to nature and get a glimpse into a predator-free future by visiting a local island or sanctuary that's free of predators.

The more people involved in the Predator Free movement, the better! For more information about joining the Predator Free movement today, visit

doc.govt.nz/get-involved-pf2050.

