

Moving from sustained control to eradication

Collective Action Plan 2020–2025 (2024 revision)



Te nuku atu i te pupuru i te maha o te kaikonihi kia iti, ki te ara haepapa pūmau



PREDATOR FREE 2050
TUIA TE TAI AO



Te Kāwanatanga
o Aotearoa
New Zealand Government

**Moving from sustained control to eradication:
Collective Action Plan 2020–2025**

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Section 1: Introduction

Overview

The Moving from Sustained Control to Eradication collaborative group aims to provide a shared agenda to achieve the work needed so Predator Free 2050 can move from sustained predator control to eradication.

The Predator Free 2050 programme intends to accelerate the rate of progress towards significantly beneficial outcomes for biodiversity and people. It also aims to accelerate benefits to primary industries and the economy that are sustainable in the long term.

This group supports the operational parties working towards Predator Free 2050 to understand the strategic work and capacity requirements, particularly system-wide issues. The group recognises there may be no generic rules for elimination and eradication, especially on inhabited landscapes, and that working out what works at each step before moving on is an appropriate approach. Both technical and social dimensions and solutions vary from site to site, as needed, to reflect people and place.

All indicators to date are that the approach is achieving as intended. More impact-related research is increasing progress in advances, including accelerated delivery of new and improved tools and accelerated achievement of mainland predator elimination. As a result, biodiversity recovery is already being observed, and social support for the mission is greater than any previous conservation initiative in Aotearoa New Zealand.

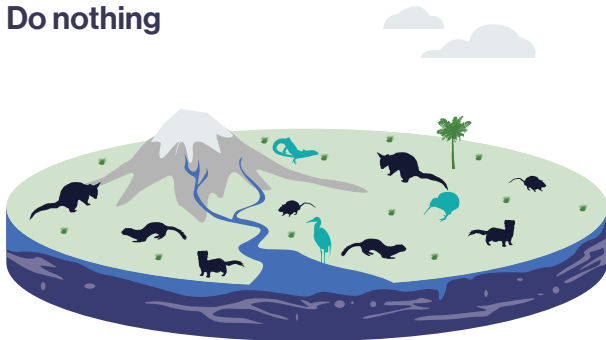
The group recognises that suppression to eradication is not a tactically valid pathway to achieving Predator Free 2050, that is, more suppression will not achieve eradication. Aotearoa New Zealand could take multiple pathways to achieve Predator Free 2050 each with their own range of strategic and tactical considerations. A significant action of this group is determining the feasibility, costs and benefits of these pathways in response to the various changeable considerations.

Purpose

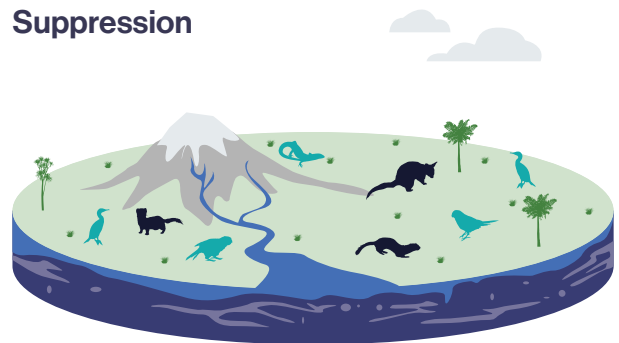
This plan outlines the 25 actions that the collaborative group agrees are required within 2024/25 and 2025/26 to support the Predator Free 2050 system. This published version of the action plan covers the strategic needs, outcomes, actions and measures. Other planning and delivery documents will detail the prioritisation, timeframe, funding and delivery arrangements.

Figure 1 shows how ecosystems respond with no predator management, predator suppression activity, area-bound predator elimination, and predator eradication. It shows how populations of native plants, native animals and predators respond to how we manage nature in Aotearoa New Zealand.

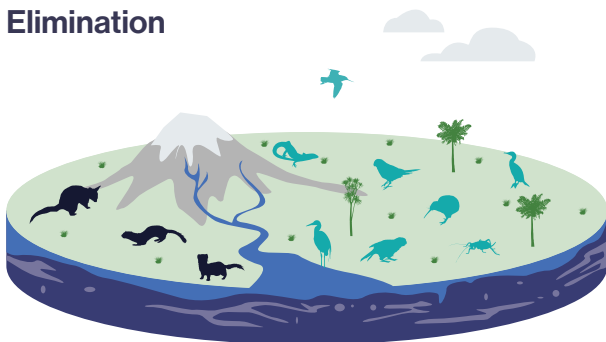
Do nothing



Suppression



Elimination



Eradication

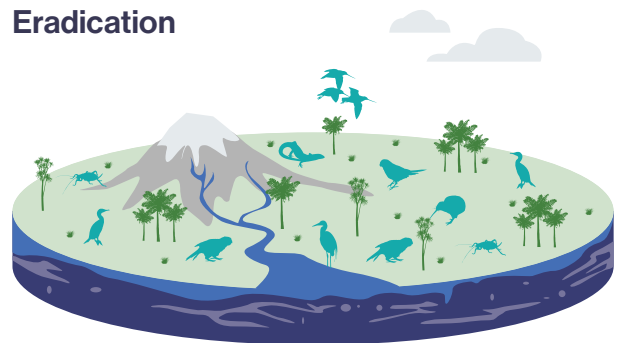


Figure 1. Ecosystems and their responses to different types of predator management.

Section 2: Action plan

The 25 actions required to support the Predator Free 2050 system are grouped into six strategic focus areas with a 5-year focus.

1. Workforce planning
2. Legislation
3. Strategic planning
4. Island eradication projects
5. Mainland elimination projects
6. Telling and supporting the story

1. Workforce planning

Actions

1. Scope the capacity and capability needs to ensure the required workforce, with all skill requirements, is available to deliver eradication at an increasingly larger scale. Group to prepare terms of reference.
2. Collaborate with national training institutes to develop an eradication-targeted capability development programme (developing consistent national standards).
3. Engage with potential employers to support on-the-job training and learning. This includes regional councils, the Department of Conservation Te Papa Atawhai, Predator Free New Zealand Trust, Predator Free 2050 Limited, contractors, landscape projects, apprenticeship providers and other employers in the sector.

Future objectives (beyond the timeframe of this action plan)

4. Promote career paths within tertiary education providers, marae, schools and so on (particularly in areas identified in the roadmap).
5. Create visibility around the pipeline of projects and work across the system to align needs, timing, resources and skills.

Measures

- A capability and capacity plan that represents the future needs of the sector and other collaborative groups is approved by the governance team and maintained as a living document.

Requirements

- Develop a dedicated professional sector, with clear career pathways, to meet the strategy's requirements, supported by national training institutes and organisations engaged to oversee eradication training and capability building (develop consistent national standards).
- Establish a funded role to achieve the implementation of actions that flow from the collaborative group. This role may also support other collaborative groups.

2. Legislation

Actions

1. Review current legislation, regulation and policy settings to determine whether legislative and regulatory tools, such as national and regional pest management plans and agency policy settings, are aligned, to enable national delivery and protect investment.

Measures

- Current Crown legislative and regulatory tools are mapped as a framework.
- Current central and regional government policy settings are mapped to show inconsistencies.

Requirements

- Gain an understanding of the effective regulatory or non-regulatory mechanisms for achieving aligned predator control.
- Stop the silos of organisations and agencies – regardless of land tenure.
- Ensure implementation can occur as required and can be protected.

3. Strategic planning

Actions

1. Identify potential pathways and develop a preliminary simulation model to help create a strategic roadmap to forecast outcomes and costs of basic roll-out approaches to eradicate target species, taking into account a set of agreed variables.
2. Align project monitoring programmes nationally to share learnings and pest monitoring data. Capture and share learnings with the collaborative groups.
3. Establish a current state of activity and map all landscape-scale suppression and eradication work of target species being undertaken, to enable synergies between identified parties.
4. Adapt the Predator Free Project Readiness tool to ensure alignment with pathways and the simulation tool. Establish a pipeline of candidate projects matched to mission needs.
5. Review eradication methodologies and new technology after 2025 to identify the effectiveness and average costs of different methodologies and approaches.
6. Identify and analyse candidate projects using the Predator Free Project Readiness tool, spatial modelling and other available tools, to help with future investment options.
7. Pilot a regional action plan that can be used to inform national implementation.

Measures

- One spatial map is developed as a shared resource to support collaboration and is used to inform future decision-making and supportive tools.
- A fit-for-purpose model has been created (using captured data) and is being maintained, which is helping with investment decision-making.
- Regional delivery approaches and associated plans are co-constructed for each project.

Requirements

- Develop a strategic roadmap that describes prioritised implementation on a staged and scaled approach and the roles of entities to achieve it.
- Ensure that delivery is inextricably linked to funding.
- Fund and commit entities to action and maintain the gains achieved.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that organisational alignment to work towards eliminating target species must include an understanding of each other's expectations and outcomes.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use modelling to determine the greatest likelihood of success and to compare eradication projects.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gain an understanding of the link to ecosystem success, sustainability and climate change.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gain an understanding of the risks and unintended consequences.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure evaluation results in adaptive management.

4. Island eradication projects

Actions

1. Complete a spatial stocktake of islands (including ownership, habitation, pest status, defendability and biodiversity values), allowing a breakdown to a prioritised work plan for uninhabited offshore islands.
2. Develop an optimised island (inhabited and uninhabited) eradication strategy (future pipeline) that takes into account defendability, feasibility, value of lessons to be learnt, easy wins, opportunity to build capability and develop tools and technologies, tangata whenua engagement and geographical spread.
3. Support project plans based on prioritisation (regarding the interim goal).

Measures

- By 2030, we will have eradicated all mammalian predators from Aotearoa New Zealand's uninhabited offshore islands.
- A pipeline of prioritised projects is developed and captured in the Landscape Readiness tool.

Requirements

- Gain an understanding of values, threats and risks.
- Gain an understanding of the strategic roadmap and its relationship to other benefits.

5. Mainland elimination projects

Actions

1. Develop an optimised mainland eradication strategy (future pipeline) that takes into account defendability, feasibility, value of lessons to be learnt, easy wins, opportunity to build capability and develop tools and technologies, tangata whenua engagement and geographical spread.
2. Resolve inconsistent use of technical language within the sector.
3. Develop a long-term programme to train and supply detection dogs and their handlers, to ensure detection dog requirements are capable of being met.
4. Support landscape projects to be successful at increasingly larger and more complex scales, collate and share learnings to benefit others.
5. Support landscape suppression projects (especially within the National Predator Control Programme) to be successful, collate and share learnings to benefit others.

Measures

- By 2030, we will have proof of concept that elimination of target species on the mainland is possible at larger scales.
- A pipeline of prioritised projects is developed and captured in the Landscape Readiness tool.

Requirements

- Share distilled knowledge and data.
- Gain an understanding of the strategic roadmap and its relationship to other benefits.

6. Telling and supporting the story

Actions

1. Action storytelling to and for members of the public so they understand the distributed focus on and links with biosecurity and restoration.
2. Create exemplars and case studies to share what has been learnt to support best practice community action.
3. Identify potential funding channels that could support landscape and island elimination and eradication projects.
4. Encourage biodiversity restoration and conservation management measures to build on, or support, eradication activity.

Measures

- Survey social and cultural awareness and levels of engagement to measure success in raising awareness of Predator Free 2050.

