JUAN FERNÁNDEZ

ISLAND CONSERVATION

Preventing Extinctions

THE JUAN FERNÁNDEZ ARCHIPELAGO

A RACE AGAINST TIME TO SAFEGUARD ISLAND LIFE

Island Conservation's mission is to prevent extinctions by removing invasive species from islands.

Our Juan Fernández Program aims to restore native island ecosystems that promote the sustainable development of the local community. Through the removal of invasive alien species (IAS)[1], we will prevent extinctions, build capacity, and improve human livelihoods in the archipelago.

WHY JUAN FERNÁNDEZ?

ISOLATION

The islands grew from volcanic activity six million years ago and emerged 700 km off the Chilean coast. **Native species developed and flourished in the unique conditions** of this remote paradise.

ENDEMISM

The land that comprises the archipelago is **home to over 900 plant and animal species; 64% are endemic, found only here.** Many species are highly vulnerable to invasive species that have been inadvertently introduced since European discovery.

EXTINCTION

According to IUCN[2] Red List criteria, **89 native plant and six native bird species are threatened with extinction.** Nine plant species can no longer be found in native forests.

RESILIENCE

Invasive alien species (IAS) are the leading threat to a prosperous archipelago. Removing IAS will restore balance to the ecosystem by protecting threatened native species and the natural resources that island residents depend on.

TURNING CHALLENGES INTO OPPORTUNITIES

TAKING ACTION

Close collaboration with local partners and agencies allows us to **conduct research and lay much of the groundwork necessary** to restore the island ecosystems.

ISLAND CONSERVATION

Island Conservation (IC) is ideally positioned to **add conservation value by designing and implementing IAS eradications; our strong ties to the local island communities** are essential to successful IAS removal projects.

LOCAL CAPACITY

Our partners in the archipelago have a history of controlling invasive species. **By complementing their knowledge and skills, we are working together** towards ecological restoration of the islands.

1 Invasive alien species are non-native plants and animals, introduced by humans that negatively impact the natural environment or human livelihoods.
2 International Union for the Conservation of Nature.

HOW WE ARE WORKING TO SAVE CHILEAN SPECIES

JUAN FERNÁNDEZ RESTORATION PROGRAM: Through our offices in Santiago and on Robinson Crusoe Island, we work with a diverse range of partners to safeguard native Chilean plants and animals by permanently removing invasive species from Chilean Islands.

AGENCIES: We collaborate with Chilean government agencies, NGOs, and local community councils to protect native species by providing expertise, developing local capacity, and supporting science-based conservation action on the ground.

COMMUNITIES: Our relationships with land owners and resource managers establish the foundation for protecting native island species and resources through the removal of IAS.

PARTNERSHIPS: Through partnerships, we help develop restoration projects that provide benefits to island communities and native species. IC works closely and efficiently with many partners by leveraging existing conservation capacity within Chile. We specialize in project development and planning, community engagement, coordination and implementation of complex projects, and fundraising to support partnerships and projects.

CONSERVATION ACTION: With our partners, we meticulously implement the removal of IAS from islands and conduct short- and long-term monitoring to understand the related ecosystem changes and the benefits to island species and resources.

"Working on the removal of invasive species is an important action our country needs to take to conserve natural resources."

Liliana Yáñez
Director of Coquimbo Region for Chile's National Forestry Corporation, CONAF (Corporación Nacional Forestal)

Above: In 2014, IC and partners removed invasive rabbits from Choros Island to provide safe breeding habitat for two threatened seabird species.

Right: Within a year, the results of our efforts were visible, with great swaths of the island covered in native flowers rarely seen before the removal of invasive rabbits.

WE ADD VALUE TO JUAN FERNÁNDEZ CONSERVATION BY...

IDENTIFYING opportunities where our expertise in invasive species management overlaps with the goals of our partners to promote healthy ecosystems and strong livelihoods.

BUILDING on the previous experiences and successes of our partners to strengthen current activities aimed at protecting threatened species and habitats.

IMPLEMENTING the complete eradication of harmful invasive species from the archipelago, adhering to core eradication principles and a conservation ethic that ensures the highest potential for success.

Turning the Tide

Critically Endangered
Juan Fernández Firecrown

JUAN FERNÁNDEZ ARCHIPELAGO

Challenge Invasive predators, herbivores and plants threaten the Juan Fernández Archipelago. Solutions must meet needs of critically endangered species like the Juan Fernández Firecrown and Masafuera Rayadito, as well as those of the local stakeholders.

Solution Removal of invasive species as part of the islands' ecological restoration will provide native species with safe habitat and provide the islands' human community with the ecological stability they need to thrive.

Partnership In collaboration with CONAF, Ministry of Environment, the Juan Fernández Municipality and Oikonos, we plan and implement our shared vision for reviving the natural island ecosystems.

Peruvian Diving-petrel
burrows on Choros Island

NATIONAL HUMBOLDT PENGUIN RESERVE

Challenge Invasive rabbits devastated the island ecosystems in this reserve, consuming plants and destroying nest sites of threatened Peruvian Diving-petrels and Humboldt Penguins—two species vital to the tourism industry and conservation goals of the region.

Solution Complete removal of rabbits from Choros Island demonstrated the lasting conservation impacts resulting from invasive species eradication and the potential to use these methods on additional Chilean islands.

Partnership IC and CONAF are planning to remove rabbits from the last invaded island in the Reserve: Chañaral Island.

Mocha Island Ground Frog
Photo: M.Vidal

OPPORTUNITIES ON CHILEAN ISLANDS

Challenge Unique species need safe conditions to thrive. Many of the more than 5,000 Chilean islands could benefit from the removal of IAS. Endangered plants and animals may disappear altogether if the threats of invasive species are not eliminated from islands like Mocha and San Ambrosio.

Solution Removing invasive species from these islands can safeguard habitat for threatened species, allow for the recovery of native landscapes, and prevent extinctions in Chile.

Partnership IC works with institutions, researchers, and local communities to gather the information necessary to plan for island-wide ecosystem recovery.

CONSERVATION IN ACTION

2009
MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU)
IC signed a landmark MOU with CONAF, facilitating collaboration with land and resource managers across Chilean islands.

2010
JUAN FERNÁNDEZ ARCHIPELAGO FEASIBILITY STUDY
IAS specialists from IC and around the world analyzed the potential to completely remove IAS from the archipelago.

2012
HOUSE SPARROW REMOVAL
IC initiated its first invasive species removal from the archipelago, trialing novel removal and monitoring methods in close collaboration with partners and landowners within the community.

2014
SUCCESS ON CHOROS ISLAND
IC and CONAF celebrated the complete removal of invasive rabbits from Choros Island, witnessing the regrowth of endangered island plants and marking an important step in the collaboration to restore island ecosystems.

JUAN FERNÁNDEZ PARTNERS

Corporación Nacional Forestal
Ministerio del Medio Ambiente
Ilustre Municipalidad de Juan Fernández
Oikonos Ecosystem Knowledge

Cover photo: The Critically Endangered Juan Fernández Firecrown is the only hummingbird found on an oceanic island—the Island of Robinson Crusoe. It is extremely vulnerable to invasive species, which consume young and adult hummingbirds alike, and destroy their native habitat and food resources.

Critically Endangered
Masafuera Rayadito

TO GET INVOLVED, CONTACT:

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www.islandconservation.org