

Juan Fernández Islands Restoration Project, Chile



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WHY ARE THE JUAN FERNÁNDEZ ISLANDS IMPORTANT?

- HOME TO THREE THREATENED SINGLE-ISLAND ENDEMIC LAND BIRDS AND 135 ENDEMIC PLANTS
- NESTING HABITAT FOR FOUR THREATENED SPECIES THAT BREED ONLY ON CHILEAN ISLANDS
- COMMUNITY OF 800 RESIDENTS WHO ARE AT THE FOREFRONT OF ISLAND RESTORATION AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN CHILE

PROJECT MISSION

To save native animal and plant species from extinction on the Juan Fernández Archipelago by removing invasive species.

PROJECT VISION

The islands' unique species' populations are stable and thriving, and healthy island ecosystems enable the local community's sustainable development.

THE PROBLEM

Invasive species are driving the extinction of rare and unique plants and animals by devouring the islands' vegetation and directly preying on native bird species. These changes threaten the local community whose economy relies on natural resource use and functioning ecosystems.

THE SOLUTION

Island Conservation, together with CONAF (Chile's Protected Areas and Forests agency), the Municipality of Juan Fernández, the Chilean Environment Ministry, Oikonos Ecosystem Knowledge, local NGOs, community leaders, and scientists, will remove invasive species as a step in the ecological restoration of the archipelago.

MEASURING IMPACT

By monitoring native wildlife and vegetation pre- and post-removal of invasive species, partners can track the recovery of native plants and animals.



Juan Fernández National Park Located 400 miles west of Santiago, Chile, this volcanic archipelago became a national park in 1935 and a designated UNESCO Biosphere Reserve in 1977. Robinson Crusoe Island was named in honor of the fictional character inspired by the 18th Century maroon, Alexander Selkirk, who spent five years living on the island before his eventual rescue.

TO SEE WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP SAVE SPECIES FROM EXTINCTION IN SOUTH AMERICA, VISIT WWW.ISLANDCONSERVATION.ORG OR EMAIL US AT SUDAMERICA@ISLANDCONSERVATION.ORG

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The International Union for Conservation of Nature, Birdlife International, the Alliance for Zero Extinction, and the World Wildlife Fund highlight the islands of the Juan Fernández Archipelago as one of the most ecologically vulnerable ecosystems in the world. The islands are 61 times richer in endemic plant species per square kilometer and 13 times greater in endemic bird richness than the Galápagos.

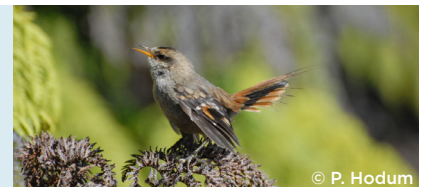
Introduced, invasive plants, goats, rabbits, coatis, feral cats, mice, and rats present on the islands are destroying native plant and animal populations, increasing erosion as well as run off, and threatening the sustainability of the local economy. Fortunately, invasive species can be removed from the Juan Fernández Archipelago. In collaboration with partners and the local community, Island Conservation is developing local sustainable development plans which include invasive species management of invasive species, and is building capacity within partner organizations and agencies to adaptively manage critical resources.

PROTECTING THE JUAN FERNÁNDEZ ISLANDS

1. WHAT NATIVE WILDLIFE IS FOUND HERE? The islands host 15 resident or breeding bird species, six of which are globally threatened. More than 440 endemic invertebrate species, three endemic land-bird species, and the endemic Juan Fernández fur seal also depend on these islands for their existence.



2. WHAT IS THE GOAL OF RESTORATION? Removing invasive species will both safeguard and restore the natural ecosystem and prevent the extinction of endemic plant and animal populations, including the Critically Endangered Juan Fernández Firecrown and the Masafuera Rayadito.



3. HOW DO YOU MEASURE RESULTS? Island Conservation and partners monitor changes in native populations before and after the removal of invasive species. Innovative techniques, such as acoustic and camera monitoring allow us to look at population trends and the presence or absence of species. Island recovery will benefit native plants, hummingbirds, passerines, and seabirds, and the local community.



4. WHAT ARE THE MOST IMPERILED BIRDS ON THE JUAN FERNÁNDEZ ARCHIPELAGO? Robinson Crusoe is home to the Juan Fernández Firecrown, the world's only endemic hummingbird from an oceanic island. The Masafuera Rayadito is a striking but little-known bird found only on Alejandro Selkirk Island.



5. WHAT CHANGES DO YOU EXPECT TO SEE AS A RESULT OF REMOVING INVASIVE SPECIES? A suite of positive changes is expected, including recovery of native forests, bringing endemic plants back from the brink of extinction, the return of breeding seabirds to Robinson Crusoe, and greater numbers of endemic birds like the Juan Fernández Tit Tyrant.

