

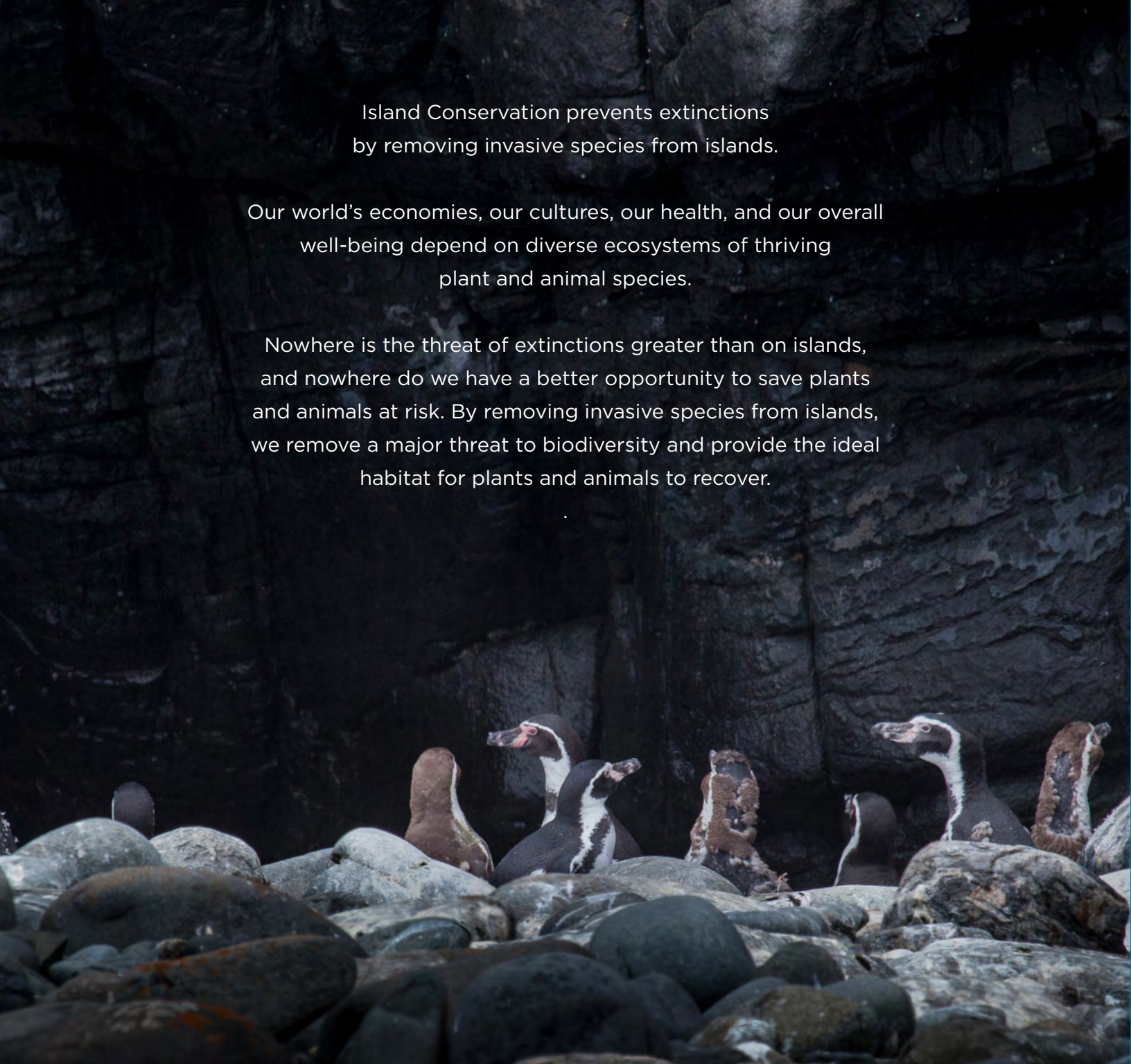


ISLAND CONSERVATION

Preventing Extinctions



Impact Report
2013/2014

A group of penguins, including adults and chicks, are gathered on a rocky island. The background is a dark, textured rock wall. The penguins are in the foreground, some sitting on the rocks and others standing. The lighting is somewhat dim, highlighting the textures of the rocks and the feathers of the birds.

Island Conservation prevents extinctions
by removing invasive species from islands.

Our world's economies, our cultures, our health, and our overall well-being depend on diverse ecosystems of thriving plant and animal species.

Nowhere is the threat of extinctions greater than on islands, and nowhere do we have a better opportunity to save plants and animals at risk. By removing invasive species from islands, we remove a major threat to biodiversity and provide the ideal habitat for plants and animals to recover.

Islands Equal Impact

Dear Friends,

One of Island Conservation's (IC) philanthropic partners recently proclaimed:

"It's so hard to get conservation 'wins' these days, with the notable exceptions of removing a dam or eradicating invasive species from islands."

This sums up why we rebranded our annual publication as an *Impact Report*. Our message is one of hope and real conservation "wins." We are honored to work with you on one of the greatest, most immediate, and most enduring returns on conservation investments—preventing extinctions by removing invasive species from islands.

These pages chronicle provocative stories about species we're saving, challenging projects under way, and the incredible people leading them. They range from Erin Hagen's efforts to secure a safe breeding place for the Galápagos Archipelago's IUCN Extinct-in-the-Wild Pinzón Giant Tortoise (*Chelonoidis ephippium*) to Stacy Buckelew's amazing discovery of Tufted Puffins (*Fratercula cirrhata*) breeding for the first time ever five years after Hawadax Island (formerly Rat Island) was declared rat-free.

Our impacts extend far beyond the islands where we work. With support from our partners, the Database of Island Invasive Species Eradications (DIISE) was recently updated

and translated into Spanish, making this important information of historic island eradications available to conservationists worldwide. Along with our *Small Islands, Big Difference* campaign partners, we celebrated the Global Environment Facility's (GEF) record \$4.43 billion allocation to biodiversity conservation—including the first ever GEF program dedicated to preventing extinction through the control and eradication of invasive species!

It is only with loyal friends and partners like you that we can continue to achieve lasting conservation success. Please enjoy a shared sense of pride as you review these stories of long-term species recovery. Thank you for your part in these island conservation **Impacts**.

Gratefully yours,



Bill Waldman
Chief Executive Officer



David Hartwell
Board Chair

"It's so hard to get conservation 'wins' these days, with the notable exceptions of removing a dam or eradicating invasive species from islands."

—Longtime Supporter

Cover Photo: Tufted Puffins are breeding on the predator-free Hawadax Island for the first time ever recorded. Photo: USFWS/Marc Romano

Opposite Photo: In 2013, IC and our Chilean partners began restoring breeding habitat for Humboldt Penguins (*Spheniscus humboldti*) on Choros Island, Chile, by removing invasive rabbits that were degrading their island home.

Highlights

4 // The Caribbean

Rescuing the Ricord's Iguana
Cabritos Island, Dominican Republic

6 // North America

Creating a Safe Haven for Seabirds
Hawadax Island, Alaska

8 // South America

Back from the Brink
Pinzón Island, Galápagos

10 // Southwest Pacific

Protecting the Norfolk Parakeet
Norfolk Island, Australia

12 // Global Affairs

Record funding allocated to invasive
species action

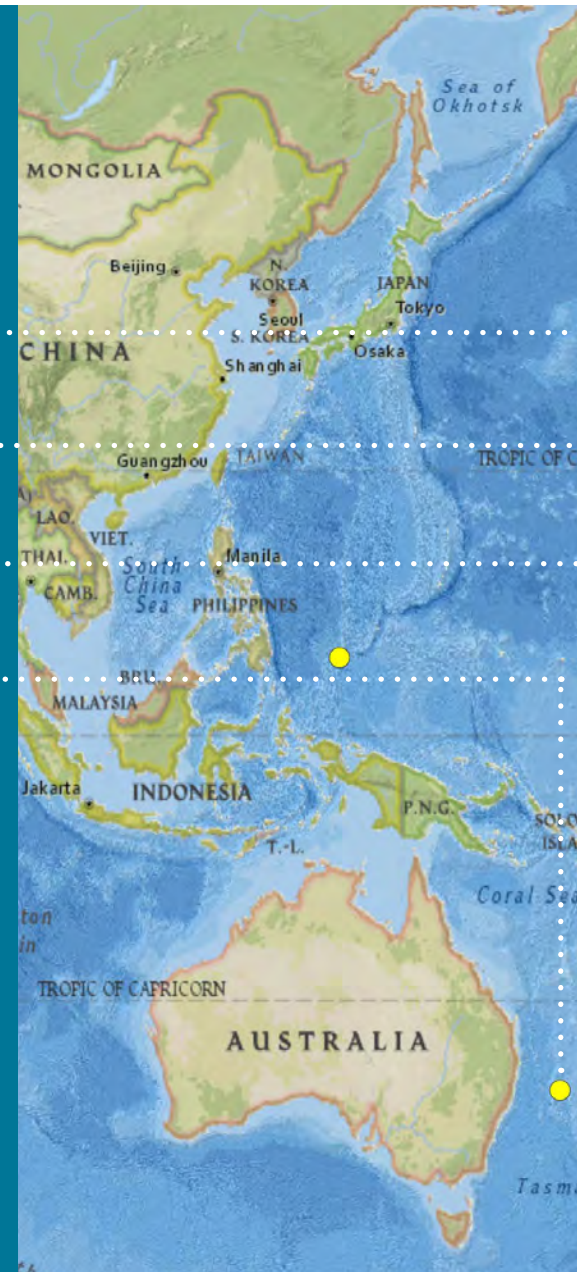
13 // Science

Expanded capabilities for the Database of
Island Invasive Species Eradications (DIISE)

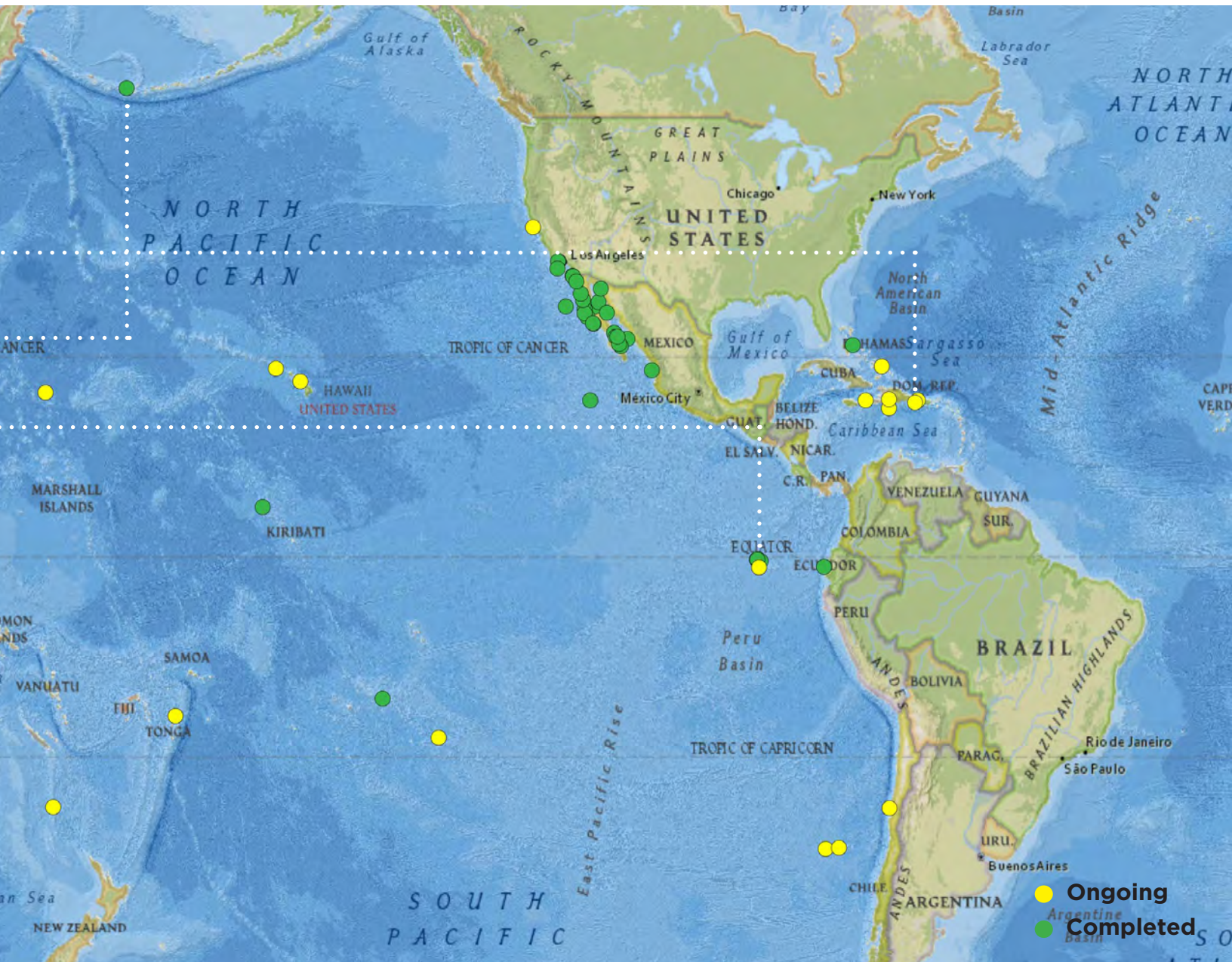
14 // Financial Report + Board of Directors

16 // Donor Partners + Project Partners

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Island Conservation*



Since 1994, Island Conservation has worked with partners to protect 389 species on 52 islands worldwide.



Rescuing the Ricord's Iguana



“The Ricord’s Iguana is one of the most endangered reptiles in the world. There are fewer than 4,000 individuals left in the wild, and their numbers continue to decline due to invasive species and habitat loss. The removal of invasive species will help protect these remarkable iguanas from the threat of extinction.”

—Wesley Jolley, Project Manager, Island Conservation

Above:

Critically Endangered Ricord’s Iguana (*Cyclura ricordi*)

“Cabritos is an island situated in a lake on the island of Hispaniola in the Dominican Republic (DR). It’s below sea level, and it’s the hottest place I’ve ever been,” says Wesley Jolley, project manager for the Cabritos Island Restoration Project. “And yet, the island is full of life—there’s an astounding variety of plants, iguanas, other lizards, and birds everywhere.”

Despite the heat, Jolley and his IC colleagues have spent the past year working with partners and government agencies to build technical capacity and support a local field team. The project aims to protect the Critically Endangered Ricord’s Iguana and Vulnerable Rhinoceros Iguana (*Cyclura cornuta*) by removing invasive feral cats and donkeys from

Cabritos Island. Invasive species destroy iguana nests, eat their young, and damage critical habitat. IC, the Hispaniolan Ornithological Society, and Center for Agriculture and Biosciences International (CABI) are supporting the DR’s Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources’ effort to restore Cabritos Island. Significant progress has been made to abate the immediate threats posed by invasives, and in the coming year we endeavor to complete the removal of invasive species, which is necessary to protect biodiversity on Cabritos Island.

“I’m really looking forward to the day we declare Cabritos Island free of these invasive species,” says Jolley. “Complete removal is essential to saving these rare iguanas from extinction.”



Bartsch's Iguana [^] (*Cyclura carinata*)

In an effort to protect the Critically Endangered Bartsch's Iguana, IC, the Bahamas National Trust, and the IUCN Iguana Specialist Group traveled to the **Bahamian island of Booby Cay** to confirm the presence of invasive goats and rats and to assess the feasibility of removing them. These actions are part of a larger

Booby Cay [^] Project Team

campaign to have Booby Cay designated as a national park. In 2008, invasive goats were reported on the island and had destroyed much of the vegetation. Inspired to take action, the island community began removing the goats. When our team arrived in 2014, the vegetation was lush

and there was no sign of invasive goats! Unfortunately, invasive rats are still present and threaten native wildlife on the cay. We are working with our partners to determine the feasibility of removing these rats and to develop biosecurity plans to protect the cay from the introduction of new invasive species.

Rhinoceros Iguana [^] (*Cyclura cornuta*)

In 2013, sixty-one conservation champions from sixteen nations participated in a workshop to collaborate on more than twenty projects to alleviate threats to iguanas, change public perceptions, and ensure long-term financial, government, and public support for iguana conservation.

Creating a Safe Haven for Seabirds



“Hawadax Island is hardly recognizable. There’s a cacophony of bird calls everywhere, and it’s alive with fledglings—teals, eiders, wrens, sparrows, eagles, peregrine falcons, gulls, sandpipers. The island is transforming.”

—Stacey Buckelew, Former Project Manager, Island Conservation

Above:

Black Oystercatcher (*Haematopus bachmani*) chicks and egg

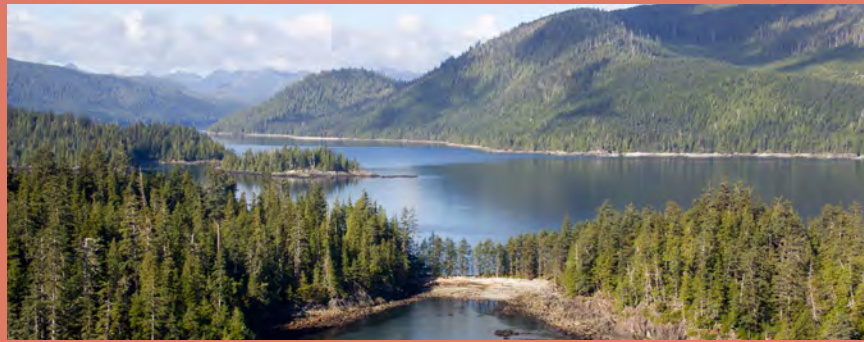
“When I first landed on what was then known as Rat Island (recently renamed Hawadax Island), it was an eerily silent place. A typical Aleutian island is teeming with wildlife, swirling with noisy, pungent birds. Not this place. It was crisscrossed with rat trails, littered with rat scat and scavenged bird bones; it even smelled...wrong,” reports Stacey Buckelew, former project manager for the Hawadax Island Restoration Project. Buckelew first visited the island in 2007 to document centuries of damage to native species from invasive rats.

Flash forward to 2013—five years after the successful removal of invasive rats by IC, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and The Nature Conservancy (TNC). These days, the island is alive with seabird species. For the first time ever documented, Tufted Puffins are breeding on this

island in the Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge. Species such as Leach’s Storm-petrels (*Oceanodroma leucorhoa*) and Fork-tailed Storm-petrels (*Oceanodroma furcata*), which had been extirpated (locally extinct) because of the invasive rats, have returned to the island. Ground-nesting birds and shorebirds are increasing in number, and Song Sparrows (*Melospiza melodia*) and Snow Buntings (*Plectrophenax nivalis*), decimated by invasive rats, are dramatically rebounding as well.

Randy Hagenstein, Alaska state director for TNC, is also in awe. “The return of bird life to Hawadax Island is an inspiring example of what we can accomplish when we work together to fix a long-standing problem,” says Hagenstein. “It’s a win for people, and it’s a win for nature.”

Haida Gwaii, > British Columbia



< Ancient Murrelets (*Synthliboramphus antiquus*)

Approximately half of our world's population of Ancient Murrelets, a species at risk in Canada, breeds on remote islands in Gwaii Haanas National Park Reserve, the National Marine Conservation Area Reserve, and the Haida Heritage Site.

To protect this culturally significant bird species, Parks Canada and the Haida Nation, together with Coastal Conservation, IC, and Conservación de Islas, completed a project to remove invasive rats from **Murchison and Faraday Islands in Gwaii Haanas National Park Reserve**, the first project of its kind in Canada. In addition to protecting historically important seabird breeding habitat, this project helped build island restoration capacity within Canada. Photo: Charlie Wright

Newell's Shearwater > (*Puffinus newelli*)

Hawai`i has a disproportionately high rate of the U.S.'s threatened species, with 431 ESA* listed Threatened and Endangered plants and animals, an extraordinary 20 percent of all such species. Through our O`ahu office, we are working with partners on Kaua`i, O`ahu, Maui, and the Big Island (Hawai`i) to safeguard native Hawaiian plants and animals by removing invasive species from **Lehua and Kaho`olawe Islands**. We also support our partners in their implementation of important control projects that protect native Hawaiian species on the main Hawaiian Islands.



< Native vegetation on Kaho`olawe Island, Hawai`i



*The U.S. Endangered Species Act (ESA) was established to protect and recover imperiled species and the ecosystems upon which they depend.

Back from the Brink



“For the first time in more than 150 years, native Pinzón Giant Tortoise hatchlings are emerging from nests and surviving on Pinzón Island. This is one of the greatest conservation stories ever told.”

—Erin Hagen, PhD, Program Manager, Island Conservation

Above:

Pinzón Giant Tortoise (*Chelonoidis ephippium*)

“**The black rat invaded the Galápagos Archipelago’s Pinzón Island more than 150 years ago and began feeding on the defenseless eggs and hatchlings of the Pinzón Giant Tortoise,**” says Erin Hagen, program manager for the Pinzón Island Project. “By the turn of the twentieth century, the tortoise was unable to establish its next generation.”

In 1965, to address this issue and restore the tortoise population, the Galápagos National Park (GNP) and Charles Darwin Foundation (CDF) began harvesting clutches of eggs and raising them in captivity until they are at a “rat-proof” size to be released. While this effort has been successful in increasing the tortoise population, the program depends on staffing and resources—which are not always available. “We knew that in order to permanently protect the tortoise and allow them to reproduce in the wild, invasive rats must be removed,” says Hagen.

In 2012, GNP, assisted by IC, The Raptor Center of the University of Minnesota, and Bell Laboratories, Inc., removed invasive rats from Pinzón Island to provide safe breeding habitat for the Pinzón Giant Tortoise and other native species. Optimistic that the success of the eradication will soon be confirmed, partners recently observed Pinzón Giant Tortoises hatching in the wild on Pinzón Island for the first time in 150 years. With the promise of a predator-free island, the Galápagos National Park recently returned 118 hatchlings to their native island home.

“There is much more work to be done to save Galápagos species, and IC and partners are on the front lines doing it. I have to admit, though,” Hagen says with a smile, “knowing that we are helping bring this amazing species back from the brink of extinction—that is definitely a conservation success worth taking a moment to celebrate.”



Juan Fernández Firecrown [^] (*Sephanooides fernandensis*)

The Critically Endangered Juan Fernández Firecrown is the only hummingbird species endemic to an oceanic island. Its very survival depends on the native forests of **Chile's Robinson Crusoe Island**. A suite of invasive species on the island devours vegetation and directly preys on native bird species. CONAF (the Chilean agency

responsible for protected areas and forest management), IC, the Chilean Environment Ministry, the Juan Fernández municipal government, local NGOs, and scientists are removing these invasive species from the Juan Fernández Archipelago. In 2013, the partners worked to remove invasive House Sparrows and several incipient invasive plants.



Peruvian Diving-petrel [^] Humboldt Penguin [^] (*Pelecanoides garnotii*) (*Spheniscus humboldti*)

The Endangered Peruvian Diving-petrel and Vulnerable Humboldt Penguin both depend on the small but critically important **Choros Island, Chile**, for nesting habitat. Invasive rabbits present on Choros destroy sensitive nesting habitat for penguins and petrels, compete for burrows,

and devour the island's native vegetation, causing increased erosion. In 2013, CONAF, IC, local community leaders, and scientists began removing invasive rabbits from Choros Island. The team will return to Choros later in 2014 with the hopes of confirming the removal effort a success.

Protecting the Norfolk Island Parakeet



“The Critically Endangered Norfolk Island Parakeet is an icon for conservation efforts on Norfolk Island. As a result of management actions, the population recovered from near extinction in the early 1980s to 240 birds in 2009. However, in 2013 it became clear that invasive species were causing a serious decline in numbers, with only around ten breeding pairs left.”

—Ray Nias, PhD, Southwest Pacific Regional Director, Island Conservation

.....
Above:

Norfolk Island Parakeet (*Cyanoramphus cookii*)

“**Feral cats, invasive rodents, and competition with introduced parrots are a major threat to the survival of the Norfolk Island Parakeet.**

After it was discovered that a significant population crash had occurred, IC and our partners developed and implemented recovery plans for this species,” says Ray Nias, Southwest Pacific regional director for IC. “Reducing the impacts of invasive species is critical to ensuring the survival of this parakeet.”

IC is working with the Australian and Norfolk Island governments, the Norfolk Island Flora and Fauna Society, BirdLife Australia, and The Nature Conservancy to protect Norfolk Island’s biodiversity. The team

is taking critical actions—protecting nest sites from predators and competitors, reducing predation on juveniles, and establishing an insurance population on nearby predator-free Phillip Island—to save this species from extinction. This project is the first step in a comprehensive process to address the ongoing decline of biodiversity on Norfolk Island and the potential extinction of one of the island’s most charismatic species.

“A number of species have been lost from Norfolk Island,” says Nias. “The Critically Endangered White-chested White-eye (*Zosterops albobularis*) may have gone extinct in recent years, and another fifty-six species on the island are threatened. The time to act is now.”

**Sir David
Attenborough and a
Lord Howe Stick Insect
(*Dryococelus australis*)** >

Photo: Jay Town

**Lord Howe Woodhen
(*Gallirallus sylvestris*)** >>

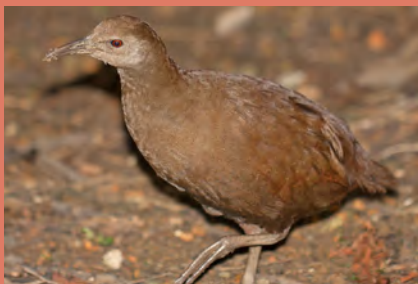
Photo: Toby Hudson

**Polynesian Megapode
(*Megapodius pritchardii*)** >

The Endangered Polynesian Megapode is currently restricted to two tiny islands.

Late Island, Tonga, would provide excellent habitat to expand the range of this unique species, except for one big problem—the presence of invasive rodents. IC, the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), and the Kingdom of Tonga are working together to protect the megapode. In March 2013, IC completed the feasibility study for the rodent removal project. Once completed, the translocation of the Endangered Polynesian Megapode to new predator-free habitat will greatly improve its conservation outlook.

Photo: Claudia Torres-Sovero



**< Lord Howe Island,
Australia**

Invasive rats present on **Lord Howe Island, Australia**, pose an ongoing threat to at least thirteen bird species that breed on the island, including the Endangered Lord Howe Woodhen and Lord Howe Pied Currawong (*Strepera graculina crissalis*), and to endemic reptiles, including the Lord Howe Island Gecko (*Christinus guentheri*). The rats also destroy vegetation and are threatening the Little Mountain Palm (*Lepidorrhachis mooreana*) and the Kentia Palm (*Howea forsteriana*), which are critical elements of the island's ecosystem. IC is assisting the Lord Howe Island Board in their plans to remove invasive rodents from the island.

Photo: Fanny Schertzer

Record Funding for Invasive Species Action



“The GEF-6 funding will provide scores of island nations and nations with islands the capacity to abate the threat of invasive species, significantly advancing the conservation of our world’s most vulnerable and threatened island species.”

—Olivier Langrand, Director of Global Affairs,
Island Conservation

On April 16, 2014, the Global Environment Facility (GEF) announced that thirty donor countries pledged US\$4.43 billion for the next GEF-6 funding cycle (2014–2018). More than 140 countries will be able to access the funding to address critically important environmental issues threatening our world’s biodiversity. The GEF funding priorities (Programs) define eligibility criteria for proposed funding requests. “Program 4” is dedicated to addressing the impacts of invasive alien species on biodiversity. This program will stimulate countries to prioritize their GEF allocations for this cause.

IC, together with our *Small Islands, Big Difference* campaign partners, is encouraging GEF-eligible countries to utilize their allocations to avert species extinction through the prevention, control, and eradication of invasive alien species.

Above:

A suite of invasive species threatens native plants and animals on Floreana Island, Galápagos. A GEF-6 investment in Floreana to remove invasive species would provide the opportunity for native species to recover and protect Floreana residents’ livelihood.

Sharing 500 Years of Global Experience

Database of Island Invasive Species Eradications

ISLAND CONSERVATION THE UNIVERSITY OF AUCKLAND UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA SANTA CRUZ Landcare Research Manaaki Whenua SSC

Search

- ... by geographic location
- ... by invasive species
- ... by eradication detail

Run Search Clear Search

Results

Filter: <Graphic>

Number of Islands: 703
Number of species: 50 (1286 eradications)

- Type (Animal)
- Status (Eradication)

Island Details

Island Eradication(s)

Name: Anacapa Mickle
Coordinates: 34.005, -119.393
Region: Pacific Ocean - North East
Country: United States
Archipelago: Channel Islands
Area (sq km): 0.710
Human Population: None
Invasive Species: 1 (1 eradications)
Threatened Species: yes (search in the TIB)

| Common Name | Scientific Name | Type (Animal) | Status (Eradication) | Primary Eradication Method | Eradication End Date | Island Code | Island Name | Archipelago |
|-------------|-----------------|---------------|----------------------|----------------------------|----------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
|-------------|-----------------|---------------|----------------------|----------------------------|----------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|

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built by the center for integrated spatial research (cis) @ ucc

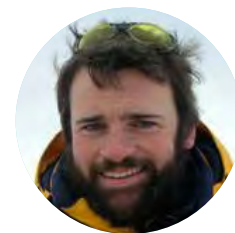
IC works with partners to develop global conservation planning tools like the Database of Island Invasive Species Eradications (DIISE). The DIISE provides invasive species practitioners access to, and the opportunity to learn from, five hundred years of global island restoration efforts. The database details the target species, methods, and outcomes from more than 1,500 eradications on almost 1,000 islands in more than sixty different countries and territories. In 2013, our team translated the data into Spanish and developed a new user-friendly map interface (above) for easy access by practitioners worldwide.

The DIISE is a collaborative partnership comprising IC; the IUCN SSC Invasive Species Specialist Group; the Coastal Conservation Action Lab at the University of California, Santa Cruz; Manaaki Whenua-Landcare Research; and the University of Auckland, New Zealand.

You can explore the DIISE at diise.islandconservation.org.

Above:

The new online interface of the DIISE database. The DIISE is also now available in Spanish.



“With more than 1,500 eradications on almost 1,000 islands worldwide, the DIISE provides a global track record for this conservation approach and the opportunity to dive deeper into each of these remarkable conservation achievements.”

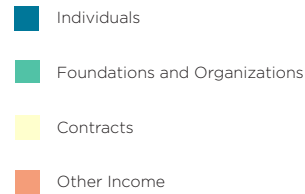
—Nick Holmes, PhD, Director of Science,
Island Conservation

Financial Report

2013 Support

Support

| | |
|-------------------------------|-----------|
| Individuals | 4,341,321 |
| Foundations and Organizations | 2,398,780 |
| Contracts | 1,343,475 |
| Other Income | 18,846 |



Total Revenue 8,102,422

Programmatic and Operational Expenses

Program Services

| | |
|---|---------|
| North American Region <i>(includes Palmyra Atoll)</i> | 856,418 |
| South American Region | 944,111 |
| Caribbean Region | 742,471 |
| Southwest Pacific Region <i>(includes Desecheo Island)</i> | 284,922 |
| Conservation Science | 297,134 |
| Other Global Priorities | 117,447 |
| Small Islands, Big Difference | 300,854 |

Total Program Services 3,543,357

Supporting Services

| | |
|----------------------|---------|
| Development | 429,265 |
| Management & General | 871,091 |

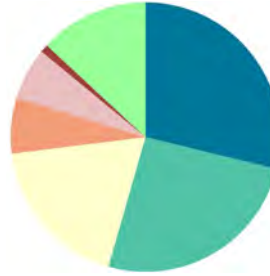
Total Supporting Services 1,300,356

Total Expenses 4,843,713

2011-2013 Programmatic Investment



2011



2012



2013



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Together with our supporters and partners, we are restoring island ecosystems for the people, plants, and animals that depend on them for survival.

Left: Jose Luis Herrera, an island restoration specialist for Island Conservation, with a Hispaniolan Giant Ameiva (*Ameiva chrysolaema*) on Cabritos Island, Dominican Republic.

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(ISSG)
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Ministerio de Medio Ambiente, Chile
Ministerio de Medio Ambiente y Recursos
Naturales, República Dominicana
Ministry of Environment and Housing, The
Bahamas
Municipalidad de Juan Fernández
National Invasive Species Council
National Tropical Botanical Garden
New Zealand Dept. of Conservation—
Island Eradication Advisory Group
Norfolk Island Flora and Fauna Society
Norfolk Island Government
Norfolk Island National Park
Oikonos Ecosystem Knowledge
Oiled Wildlife Care Network
Pacific Cooperative Studies Unit, University of
Hawai'i
Pacific Invasives Initiative
Pacific Invasives Partnership
Pacific Rim Conservation
Palau Animal Welfare Society
Palau Bureau of Agriculture
Palau Conservation Society
Palau National Invasive Species Council
Palmyra Atoll Research Consortium
Pathfinder Aviation
Pohnpei Department of Marine Resources
Point Blue
Puerto Rico Electric Power Authority
Puerto Rico Ornithological Society
Quatsino First Nation
Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
Secretariat for the Pacific Regional
Environment Program (SPREP)
Simon Fraser University
Sociedad Ornitológica de la Hispaniola (SOH)
Sociedad Ornitológica Puertorriqueña Inc.
Société d'Ornithologie de Polynésie (MANU)
South Georgia Heritage Trust
Tamarak Ventures Ltd. (R/V Aquila)
The Nature Conservancy
The Nature Conservancy—Alaska
The Nature Conservancy—Australia
The Nature Conservancy—California
The Nature Conservancy—Hawai'i
The Raptor Center, University of Minnesota
TierraMar Consulting
Tlatlasikwala First Nation
United Nations Development Program, Chile
United Nations Environment Program,
Caribbean
Universidad Católica del Norte, Chile
University of Auckland
University of California, Berkeley
University of California, Davis
University of California, Santa Cruz
University of Idaho
University of Illinois
University of Missouri—Columbia
University of North Carolina
U.S. Air Force
U.S. Coast Guard
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
U.S. National Park Service—Channel Islands
National Park
U.S. National Park Service—Haleakalā National
Park
U.S. Navy
USDA—APHIS, Wildlife Services, National
Wildlife Research Center, Fort Collins, CO
USDA—APHIS, Wildlife Services, National
Wildlife Research Center, Hilo, HI
USDA—Caribbean Islands Office
USFWS—Alaska Maritime National Wildlife
Refuge
USFWS—Caribbean Islands National Wildlife
Refuge Complex
USFWS—Coastal Program and Partners for
Fish and Wildlife (PFW) Program
USFWS—Division of Migratory Bird
Management
USFWS—Ecological Services in the Caribbean
USFWS—International Affairs
USFWS—Invasive Species Program
USFWS—National Wildlife Refuge System
USFWS—Pacific Islands Fish and Wildlife Office
USFWS—Pacific Remote Islands Marine
National Monument
USFWS—Pacific SW Region (Region 8)
USFWS—Palmyra Atoll National Wildlife Refuge
USFWS—San Francisco Bay National Wildlife
Refuge Complex
USFWS—SE Region (Region 4)
Western Aerial
White Buffalo, Inc.
Wildlife Conservation Society, Latin America
Zoológico de Puerto Rico, Dr. Juan A. Rivero



ISLAND CONSERVATION

Preventing Extinctions

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Above:

Black-browed Albatross (*Thalassarche melanophrys*) in the waters of the Juan Fernández Archipelago, Chile. Island Conservation is working with Chilean partners to protect this species by removing invasive species from the archipelago.