

The Abel Tasman is one of New Zealand's most stunning national parks with golden beaches and lush coastal bush.

Project Janszoon, the Department of Conservation (DOC), Abel Tasman Birdsong Trust and iwi are working to make the Park an even more beautiful place to visit by restoring the environment so wildlife can flourish.

Restoring Abel Tasman National Park

Renowned conservationist Sir David Bellamy once called New Zealand the "land without teeth" as in pre-human times there were no mammals living here. Our native plants and animals evolved without the fear of four-legged predators and cannot easily defend themselves from introduced predators.

It is estimated introduced predators kill 68 thousand native birds in New Zealand every day. In the Abel Tasman, we want to give native birds and plants a chance to thrive.



The Abel Tasman baddies

Rats can attack birds and chicks nesting high in trees. They also eat native wētā, snails, insects and lizards.

Stoats are often described as 'public enemy number one' for native birds. They are the major cause of the decline of species like kiwi, kākā, and kākārīki/yellow-crowned parakeet.



Possums consume an estimated 21,000 tonnes of vegetation in New Zealand forests every night. In the Abel Tasman they can severely damage large areas of natives like rātā, tōtara, tītoki and mistletoe. They also prey on bird eggs and young chicks.



Bringing back wildlife



Predator control will allow the forest canopy to recover and will reduce attacks on chicks and nesting birds so they can rebuild their populations.

Birds already returned to the Park include kākā, toutouwai/robin, kākāriki/yellow-crowned parakeet, tīeke/saddleback and pāteke/brown teal. More species, like tuatara, will be returned in time.



A range of predator control is used in the Abel Tasman National Park

Stoat trapping

A stoat trapping network covers most of the national park. Boxed traps are checked and reset monthly.

Rat trapping

In some areas, including Anchorage and Totaranui, Goodnature self-resetting A24 rat traps are being used. The traps are powered by a CO₂ gas canister that can kill up to 24 times per canister.

Aerial predator control

Given the large area and difficult terrain, the most effective way to control possums or rats is to use aerially applied cereal baits containing biodegradable 1080 pesticide.

1080 is the common name for sodium fluoroacetate, which is a synthetic version of a naturally occurring toxin found in a range of plants from South America, Africa and Australia. A 2011 Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment report into the use of 1080 found it was the most effective tool currently available to protect our native wildlife.

About Project Janszoon

Project Janszoon is a privately funded trust named after Abel "Janszoon" Tasman, focused on restoring the ecological prospects of the Park. Download the Abel Tasman Virtual Visitor Centre App for free from your Google Play or App store to find out more about the Park or visit www.janszoon.org



Department of Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai