

New Zealand to rid non-native pests by 2050

28th July, 2016

www.mpg.de/



The government of New Zealand has declared war on countryside pests. It wants to make the country predator-free by 2050. It has set an ambitious target to eradicate all non-native species from the country over the next three decades. New Zealand's Prime Minister John Key says he intends to

introduce strategies to cull introduced species, especially predators that threaten New Zealand's native birds. He said: "Rats, possums and stoats kill 25 million of our native birds every year, and prey on other native species such as lizards. Along with the rest of our environment, we must do more to protect them." His government has awarded \$28 million to a company that will help implement his plans.

Mr Key told reporters: "This is the most ambitious conservation project attempted anywhere in the world, but we believe if we all work together as a country, we can achieve it." It will take the combined efforts of the private and public sectors as well as community groups. Few people in New Zealand want more of the country's native birds to become extinct. Since European settlers arrived in the mid-nineteenth century and brought with them rats and other predators, New Zealand has lost a huge variety of birds. These include the bush wren, the laughing owl and the mysterious starling. The country's national bird, the kiwi, is currently under threat. Only five percent of kiwi chicks survive to adulthood.

Sources: stuff.co.nz / radioNZ.co.nz / m.NZherald.co.nz

Writing

All countries should kill non-native species for conservation purposes. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

government / countryside / pests / strategies / predators / rats / lizards / environment / ambitious / conservation / project / community / extinct / variety / national bird

True / False

- New Zealand's government has declared a kind of war. T / F
- NZ's government hopes to rid all predators by 2050. T / F
- Rats and other predators kill 25 million New Zealand birds every year. T / F
- New Zealand's government has given \$280 million to a company. T / F
- NZ's project is the most ambitious of its kind anywhere in the world. T / F
- The government said community groups are not needed in the project. T / F
- Settlers first arrived in New Zealand in the 1900s. T / F
- Around 50% of kiwi chicks survive to become adults. T / F

Synonym Match

- | | |
|-----------------|----------------|
| 1. declared | a. hunt |
| 2. ambitious | b. get rid of |
| 3. eradicate | c. make it |
| 4. prey on | d. joint |
| 5. implement | e. announced |
| 6. attempted | f. enormous |
| 7. combined | g. tried |
| 8. huge | h. challenging |
| 9. under threat | i. carry out |
| 10. survive | j. in danger |

Discussion – Student A

- How important is conservation?
- Would you like to take part in a project like this?
- How sad is it when a species becomes extinct?
- How difficult would it be to eradicate pests from your country?
- In what way can people be pests?
- How can you protect animals under threat in your country?
- What do you think of your national animal and bird?
- What questions would you like to ask New Zealand's leader?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|--|-------------------------|
| 1. declared war | a. of birds |
| 2. It wants to make the country predator- | b. introduced species |
| 3. It has set an ambitious | c. extinct |
| 4. strategies to cull | d. free by 2050 |
| 5. implement | e. adulthood |
| 6. combined efforts of the private and public | f. under threat |
| 7. native birds to become | g. on countryside pests |
| 8. lost a huge variety | h. sectors |
| 9. The country's national bird, the kiwi, is currently | i. target |
| 10. five per cent of kiwi chicks survive to | j. his plans |

Discussion – Student B

- What do you think about what you read?
- What pests are there in your country?
- What damage do introduced species do to native species?
- What do you think of New Zealand's plan?
- How important is it to protect native species?
- How sad is it that many animals will be culled?
- How successful do you think the war on pests will be?
- What does your government do to protect the environment?

Spelling

- elrdcdae war on countryside pests
- set an buitsomia target
- ecitdeaar all non-native species
- introduce saetitgrse
- dosterarp that threaten
- a company that will help emmnlietp his plans
- otvcanreison project
- we can ihaecve it
- yimmuctno groups
- a huge rtevaiy of birds
- rerlytcnu under threat
- 5% of kiwi chicks survive to hudtloaad

Answers – Synonym Match

1. e	2. h	3. b	4. a	5. i
6. g	7. d	8. f	9. j	10. c

Role Play

Role A – Elephants

You think elephants are the most important creatures to protect. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their creatures aren't as important. Also, tell the others which of these is the least in need of protection (and why): butterflies, whales or pandas.

Role B – Butterflies

You think butterflies are the most important creatures to protect. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their creatures aren't as important. Also, tell the others which of these is the least in need of protection (and why): elephants, whales or pandas.

Role C – Whales

You think whales are the most important creatures to protect. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their creatures aren't as important. Also, tell the others which of these is the least in need of protection (and why): butterflies, elephants or pandas.

Role D – Pandas

You think pandas are the most important creatures to protect. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their creatures aren't as important. Also, tell the others which of these is the least in need of protection (and why): butterflies, whales or elephants.

Speaking – Animals

Rank these with your partner. Put the most important to protect at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|---------------|----------|
| • elephants | • whales |
| • ants | • bees |
| • lizards | • pandas |
| • butterflies | • kiwis |

Answers – True False

a	T	b	T	c	T	d	F	e	T	f	F	g	F	h	F
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.