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Most of our work can be described as preventative – stopping infestations,” he said. “The island conservation work is actually adding to populations. The increase in specific seabird and other populations due to our products is in many instances staggering.”

Going forward, look for Bell to do some specialized branding for its island conservation baits. Bell’s VP of Marketing, Todd Butzow, indicated that this will help Bell promote this small but important segment of its business. The line, tentatively named “Bell Island,” will encompass different formulations and bait sizes and strengths, as each project gets its own bait to meet the island and invasives’ unique needs.

Representatives from Island Conservation take notes as a prominent landowner and council member discusses the eradication of invasive species on Floreana in the Galápagos Islands.

Summer is upon us, and that gets us thinking about travel. Not vacation travel, mind you, but a trip to the 2017 Island Invasives Conference in Dundee, Scotland, of which Bell Laboratories is a sponsor.

The conference takes place over five days and will be chock-full of presentations and conversations regarding the best ways to control invasives and help restore delicate and endangered ecosystems. On day two of the conference, Bell’s Senior International Registration Specialist, Craig Riekena, will give a conference-wide presentation on baits used in Bell’s island conservation projects. There, he’ll discuss Bell’s process of developing baits to use on island habitats. This includes formulation, research and development, pellet manufacturing, testing, and finally, application. He’ll also talk about Bell’s history and how the company got involved in island conservation projects.

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Future projects throughout the globe that where pellets for the restoration projects are

“We reviewed ongoing projects and discussed past and upcoming projects and to tour Bell’s new manufacturing facilities.

“It was a pleasure to see everyone again and visit the new and improved spaces that you have outside of town. [They’re] very impressive,” Howald said. She added, “So often, we come to work and although we believe in our products, we don’t see directly how the work we do impacts populations. When we talk to employees about our conservation efforts, they see that we’re saving things. We’re restoring things.

Levy reinforces this sentiment. “In addition to making products that address a public health concern—eliminating rodents that spread disease, contaminate the food supply and do structural damage, our employees are gratified to see that the products that they make can be used to help prevent bird species’ and other endangered animals’ extinctions.” Howald, who has been to Bell in the past but hadn’t visited recently, had nothing but praise for the manufacturing facilities and the people that make Bell tick.

“I can only describe [Bell] as one of the most, if not the most, healthy and positive corporate cultural environments that I have witnessed,” Howald said. “The staff was extremely gracious and generous, and are all very enthusiastic about the work that we do and that the work that they do in their contribution toward conservation.”

Levy returned the praise and looks forward. “We at Bell are very proud to be a part of island conservation projects. An obvious benefit is the prevention of animal extinction through rodent eradication and the feel-good component associated with that. The other is demonstrating what an important tool rodenticides provide in a world that is not as obvious to the general public.

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