

Nicaragua

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vere damage to sugar cane, tubers, pineapple, African palm and other crops.

“CONTRAC bait has generated a lot of excitement among PCOs, farmers and livestock producers,” said Pizarro. “Palatability and rodent bait acceptance is a key issue not only for Nicaragua, but for other countries in Central and Latin America, so CONTRAC is the optimal product for such situations.”

CONTRAC is specially formulated with an optimal blend of food-grade ingredients and a small amount of paraffin. Bell's patented All-Weather Blox have multiple edges that appeal to a rodent's desire to gnaw and contain

the highest-grade toxicants and inert ingredients for outstanding rodent acceptance and control. They work well in any condition - wet or dry, indoors or out, essential in Nicaragua's tropical climate.

With its time tested rodent acceptance and control due to its highly palatable formulation, Pizarro expects CONTRAC to be a welcome addition to Nicaragua's product offerings.

“I expect much success with CONTRAC in Nicaragua, because it is a time-tested product, and we have our distributor (ESCASAN – GLOBAL VET) absolutely committed to Bell's rodent control product offerings.”



Rodents can cause extensive damage to crop yield in Nicaragua's agricultural industry by gnawing on stems and roots of various crops.



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U.K. STEWARDSHIP REMINDER!

No certification, no sale of rodenticides starting October 1

As part of U.K. Stewardship, starting October 1, farmers, gamekeepers, pest controllers and their employees buying professional rodenticide packs for use outdoors will need to show either an approved certificate of competence or document confirming membership of an approved farm assurance scheme.

For more information visit <http://www.thinkwildlife.org/>



PestWorld 2016 in Seattle Oct. 18-21

Mark your calendars for PestWorld 2016 this fall at the Washington Convention Center in Seattle, Washington.

Stop by Bell's booth #415 where the Bell

team will answer questions and discuss new products. We will also be screening Bell's new corporate video.

See you in the Emerald City, October 18-21!

Use pesticides safely. Always read the label. Follow the Alliance Code of Practice for glue boards in the U.K.

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A Journey TO THE GALAPAGOS

The Galapagos Islands: Located in the Pacific off the west coast of Ecuador, they are the crown jewels of the conservation world. These are the islands where Charles Darwin expanded his Theory of Natural Selection. Unfortunately, the islands share one very big problem: Many are over-run with invasive rodents, which are killing off rare and endangered species that are found only on the islands.

Enter Bell Laboratories

This summer, Bell Technical Advisor Pete Martin and Bell co-owner Anne Connor made a pilgrimage to visit the Galapagos as guests of Island Conservation (IC), the organization that has been working to rid the islands of invasives. Bell and IC (www.IslandConservation.org) partnered to eradicate invasive rats on the Galapagos Islands of Pinzon and Rabida, and

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Members of the Bell Labs and Island Conservation teams placed containment systems, to test bait durability, in the highlands and the lowlands of Floreana.



The 2009 and 2011 eradication projects on Pinzon and Rabida were successful in eradicating invasive rodents. Here, a helicopter prepares to drop bait on a Galapagos island.

to investigate Floreana, the next island on which they hope to work together.

The projects on Pinzon and Rabida, undertaken in 2009 and 2011, were so successful that years later, there is no evidence of invasive rodents on the islands. Connor and Martin hiked the islands with IC's project leaders to witness how several species, including the Galapagos tortoise, are experiencing a resurgence now that the rats have been eradicated. Like many creatures in the Galapagos, tortoises and birds lay their eggs in ground nests, which are easily decimated by rodent populations.

"As with any rodent eradication project, I was proud that we were able to preserve threatened or endangered species [on the islands] for enjoyment by future generations," says Martin. Martin is responsible for formulating bait, including the 25 ppm brodifacoum bait pellets, that are used in conservation projects.

"These projects provide a shining example of how chemistry, in the right hands, can be used in a positive manner to protect the planet and creatures that inhabit it," Martin says. "What makes these project even more gratifying is that we were responsible for not only preserving the giant tortoise from the ravages of rodents, but we were able to protect two species (a small gecko and a land snail) that scientists had thought to be extinct."

Island Conservation's Galapagos leaders are working with residents of Floreana to develop

strategies to eradicate invasive rats on that island. Baiting Floreana poses unique challenges because it's inhabited by approximately 100 residents, many of whose families have lived on the island for generations. Floreana has its own fresh food and water sources and houses domesticated animals.

"The residents of Floreana, who are working hand-in-hand with Island Conservation, are invested in eradicating invasives, which will allow them to increase tourism on the island," Connor tells us. "Pete and I attended several informal meetings with residents and community leaders, who expressed their concerns and objectives for achieving total eradication of invasive rats," she adds. Residents are in active discussions with IC regarding things like food disposal (making sure rats don't have access to food scraps from restaurants) and how to protect food and water sources in exposed areas. "The residents were so receptive to having members of Bell Laboratories on-site for discussions," Connor says. "They can see that we're invested in a positive outcome."



A saddleback tortoise observes the Island Conservation and Bell Labs teams on the Island of Pinzon

Bait Formulation and Other Issues

Martin says that eradicating rats on an island like Floreana will require 400 tons (800,000 pounds) of specially formulated pelleted bait. The terrain is challenging, and unique landscape features like lava tubes, working farms and coastlines will need to be hand-baited.

"We used Brodifacoum 25 Conservation Bait for Pinzon and Rabida," Martin says, "but bait determinations won't be made for Floreana until degradation and animal color selection trials are conducted in October or November of this year."

The rate of bait degradation is a major issue for islands like Floreana. Climatic variance is extreme – it's dry and arid in the lowlands and moist in the highlands, where farming takes place. The challenge will be to develop a single bait formulation that will degrade within two weeks on the coastal area as well as the highlands.

"Moisture availability (i.e. rain, dew, fog) plays a major role in bait degradation," Martin says. "The coastal areas typically experience significantly less moisture than the highlands, so ideal bait formulation must balance resistance to water penetration necessary for use in the humid areas of the highlands, with properties of moisture attraction necessary for degradation in the arid climate of the coast."

Bell will continue to work hand-in-hand with Island Conservation to ensure that the right bait specifications are met to protect these important islands and their inhabitants, now and in the future. ■



Another successful rat eradication comes to a close, with news that the Arichika Island in Haida Gwaii, British Columbia is officially rat free for the first time since the 1700s. Bell supplied the island with brodifacoum conservation bait in 2011, to help our northern neighbors embark on a wide scale aerial bait drop to eradicate invasive rats from islands in the Gwaii Haanas National Park Reserve and Haida Heritage Site.

Known as the Galápagos of the North, the 150-plus islands in the Haida Gwaii archipelago suffered from a fate all too familiar on islands around the world: invasive rats that are devastating a once-thriving seabird population. Rats, which arrived aboard ships traveling from Europe to western North America in the 1700s, are now, along with other invasive species, the No. 1 threat to Haida Gwaii's ecosystem. With their voracious appetites, invasive Norway and black rats devour the eggs and chicks of defenseless seabirds.

The small island of Arichika is about 10 hectares, and is home to the Ancient Murrelet, a bird that makes its nests by burrowing underground, beneath the roots and moss of the



One of a few rat eradications completed on forested islands globally, the Haida Gwaii project aimed to provide safe nesting for birds, such as the Ancient Murrelet.

old-growth forests. With half of its global population breeding only in Haida Gwaii, the Ancient Murrelet is considered a Species-at-Risk in Canada, primarily because of the predatory rats.

However, with this new rat-free declaration, comes hope that the endangered Murrelet, along with other ecological systems on the islands, will begin to recover. Scientists say they have already seen the population of other species bounce back.

The eradication now turns to ensuring the rat-free status remains. Parks Canada and their partners will continue to monitor the islands, and plan to develop a biosecurity program to continue their mission. ■

The Haida Gwaii restoration team preparing for an aerial bait drop in 2013.



Contrac Launches in Nicaragua



Professional pest controllers in Nicaragua have a new bait to fight rodent infestations with Bell's CONTRAC®, with the active ingredient Bromadiolone.

Launched in August, Andrés Pizarro, Bell's Latin American Business Manager, spent a week promoting the new product offering along with Bell's distributor partner in Nicaragua, ESCASAN – GLOBAL VET.

"The goal for the launch in Nicaragua was to give as much information about CONTRAC and the scope of use, while stressing proper rodent control practices with RPM presentations," said Pizarro.

Both CONTRAC All-Weather Blox and CONTRAC Pellets are now available in Nicaragua. Professional pest controllers and crop producers throughout the country are continuously searching for new products and methods to fighting rodent infestations in the field. Rodents wreak havoc throughout homes and commercial facilities, as well as cause se-

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Bell Labs' Latin American Business Manager, Andrés Pizarro, with distributor partner in Nicaragua, ESCASAN – GLOBAL VET.