

Island Conservation continued from front page

the most anticipated moments for the rapidly expanding, international conservation community to finally meet in person.

“With a decade often passing between sessions, it is great to hear new voices and connect with old colleagues. You experience an energy that reminds you that conservation is about people and about what we can achieve with dedication and the courage to walk paths often untraveled,” he said. “This year also highlighted the importance of long standing and unique commercial partners like Bell Laboratories, whose commitment to conservation continues to set them apart.”

Hanson said Wood attending was a fantas-

tic opportunity to see the scale of conservation happening around the world and have deep conversations about how Bell can help magnify the movement’s impact.

Thanks to passionate, hard-working conservationists, Bell continues to make a difference by producing high-quality baits to eradicate invasive rodents around the world. This improves the lives of the people living on the islands, tourism industries, and helps restore endangered and threatened species to their rightful place. ■

1. Invasive predators and global biodiversity loss, Tim Doherty et al.

CONSERVATION ON A GLOBAL SCALE: A GALÁPAGOS STORY

After 10 years of hard work by Bell and its non-profit partner Island Conservation, the Galápagos Islands are finally breaking free from invasive rodents.

Watch the video to see how!



THE BELL REPORT

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DID YOU KNOW?

Roof rats spent nearly their entire life at least one meter above the ground. PCOs should make sure to trap where roof rats run, such as attics, ledges, and utility lines.



Bell joins partners at island conservation conference

An important part of Bell’s mission is preserving vulnerable ecosystems around the world by supporting island conservation and restoration. Invasive rodents have already driven 75 species extinct worldwide, including many island species. This is why Bell is proud to work with non-profit and government agency partners to restore island ecosystems. While Bell manufactures the bait to help eradicate invasive rodents, these partners handle the logistics of eradication projects.

Bell’s Asia Pacific Business Manager Samuel Wood recently had the opportunity to engage more deeply with island conservation work when he represented Bell at the Island Invasives conference. Hosted by New Zealand’s University of Auckland, the conference celebrated its 25th year of improving island biodiversity by sharing knowledge through workshops and meetings.

When Wood arrived, he noticed two things immediately.

“I was surrounded by very, very smart people,” he said. “Along with that, they really care about what they do. It’s hard not to get caught up in their enthusiasm.”

Wood was especially struck by the passion of Chad Hanson, the Director for Conservation Planning for the non-profit Island Conservation. Bell works closely with Hanson and the Island Conservation team, but it was Wood’s first time meeting him.

“Chad was very welcoming immediately, and we ended up talking for three hours” he said. “He explained how watching helicopters take off with bait for the first time, after years of planning, was like seeing your child for the first time. Listening to that gave me goosebumps.”

The goodwill between Bell and conservationists goes both ways. Wood shared how everyone he met at the conference recognized the work Bell does.

“Bell is deeply embedded in island conservation, and people were pleased that we were there,” he said. “One man from the Galápagos National Park approached me and thanked me for all of the support we’ve given them.”

Hanson said the conference was one of

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Above: Chad Hanson with Island Conservation hosts presentation on how to improve rodent eradication rates on high-risk islands



Above: One major topic at the conference was sharing information, such as what went into successful eradication projects, along with standardizing language to discuss conservation projects.

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This logo is for Island Invasives 2026. It depicts a rat eating an egg, one of the ways invasive rodents destroy island ecosystems.



Bell's most popular rodenticide arrives in Argentina

No matter where a pest control operator (PCO) lives and works, they deserve to have the best rodent control tools the industry has to offer. As the world leader in rodent control technology, Bell is committed to supporting PCOs, which is why we brought CONTRAC All-Weather BLOX to Argentina.

This product is fulfilling a long-running need in the country's pest control industry.

"Argentina is full of skilled professionals, but there's still lack of high-quality products," Latin America Business Manager Andrés Pizarro shared. "Bell is fixing that with this launch."

Supporting the launch is Bell's distributor partner Chemotecnica. As the country's leading pest control product distributor, the company is positioned to support Argentine PCOs.

"We are very excited about this opportunity," said Chemotecnica business manager

Guillermo Tarelli. "We celebrate this alliance and are confident it will be an excellent and prosperous business relationship."

Ahead of the launch, Pizarro met with many PCOs through Chemotecnica Technical Workshops, some of the most important events in the Argentine pest control landscape. He said technicians have "very high expectations" on how a highly palatable, effective bait like CONTRAC can improve their pest control programs.

"I can truly say CONTRAC will be very successful in Argentina," he said. "I can't wait to use this great product in the field with our distributor Chemotecnica and PCOs."

Along with CONTRAC, Bell will continue to support Argentine PCOs by launching



Above: Latin America Business Manager Andrés Pizarro highlighted Bell's robust rodent control line-up at Chemotecnica's technical workshops.

another rodenticide option soon.

CONTRAC All-Weather BLOX is available in 8kg pails. To learn more about CONTRAC, contact Andrés Pizarro or visit belllabs.com today. ■

CONTRAC All-Weather BLOX are made with the single-feed, second-generation anticoagulant bromadiolone. An effective clean-out and maintenance bait, CONTRAC products are widely trusted in the industry for their palatable and weatherable formulation. Bait shyness with CONTRAC may be reduced because mortality occurs a few days after the bait is consumed. The antidote, vitamin K1, is readily available.



Seeing the future at 2026

Italy's PestMed Expo is one of the largest pest control industry conferences in Europe. Each year, pest control operators (PCOs) and distributors from over 56 countries attend to share and learn about the latest in the industry.

At this year's expo in Italy's BolognaFiere, Bell had the pleasure of co-exhibiting with our long-time and exclusive Italian partner Colkim. Founded in 1964, Colkim continues to be a leading producer and distributor of

sustainable and innovative pest control products.

iQ products, powered by Bell Sensing Technology, are at the forefront of Bell's ongoing mission to innovate in the rodent control industry. To help PCOs understand the value iQ products can bring to their work, EMEA Director Arnaud Del Valle hosted an iQ scavenger hunt at the event.

"PestMed was a strong platform to show PCOs how iQ works in real conditions," Del

Valle said. "The scavenger hunt translated iQ products' features into tangible benefits, like technicians being able to remotely access hard-to-reach devices and eliminate the need for lifts and ladders."

Del Valle said the hands-on demonstration gave PCOs insight on how they can leverage iQ products to boost their operational gains by improving ease of access and service efficiency. ■



THE WAR ON RATS

For as long as we've lived together, humanity has been at war with rats. However, large-scale efforts to get rid of these pests – often referred to as 'wars on rats' – only began within the last one hundred years or so. Often led by local or federal government, these campaigns strive to eradicate infesting rats, ideally, once and for all.

Unfortunately, it's not that easy. Victory over rats is short-lived in most cases, with them returning just as strong as they were before. To investigate why these wars aren't more successful, researchers have reviewed over 4,000 global publications to see what can be done.

In *Reconsidering the "War on Rats": What We Know From Over a Century of Research Into Municipal Rat Management*, its researchers share something all pest control operators (PCOs) already know: rats are a challenging target. They can thrive almost anywhere, they're

highly mobile, and they breed, a lot. These traits make rats especially difficult to control in urban environments. Even after a successful program, rat populations often rebound. The researchers liken this to using a bucket to bail out a sinking boat, or "farming" – as if the program "harvests" rats then waits for them to regrow.

These programs can fail for several reasons, the first of which is the narrow focus of simply killing rats. While the programs can make efforts to improve efficiency and affordability, without addressing the complex issues that lead to infestations, the program will simply become another 'farming' exercise.

Other drivers of failure are a lack of interest and funds. Controlling rodents at a city-wide – or even national – scale requires political, social, and financial buy-in. Look at other successful, large-scale rodent control programs, like Alberta, Canada's,

federal rat control program. What makes it stand apart is support from everyday people, not just PCOs.

The researchers say the most effective programs find success by focusing on proactive rodent control and addressing rodent access to food, waste and harborage. This involves metropolitan design and sanitation restructuring, along with identifying how to benefit the most people at one time. For example, should there be a yearly rat hunt in a particular neighborhood, or instead changes to that neighborhood's waste management? The researchers say the correct answer is the latter.

At the end of the day, waging "war" on rats is too short-sighted. True victory is achieved through incremental improvements to infrastructure, supported by proactive rodent monitoring and control. ■

Since the dawn of time, humanity has waged war on rats. However, large-scale eradication programs began fairly recently. Here are just a few noteworthy campaigns.



- 1902**
Great Hanoi Rat Massacre begins
- 1943**
UK starts War on Rats to prevent damage to WWII food supply
- 1958**
China launches Four Pests Campaign
- 2013**
Predator Free New Zealand founded to eradicate invasive rodents
- 2017**
Paris launches "War on Rats"
- 2025**
Malaysian Housing and Local Government Ministry starts anti-rat campaign



Above: Attendees crowd around the Bell booth to learn how the T-Rex iQ and PROTECTA EVO Tunnel combo is an excellent way to protect your smart traps from damage and non-targets.



Above: Colkim's "spaceship" booth was designed to evoke the concepts of future, innovation, and science.