



Department of  
Conservation  
*Te Papa Atawhai*



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## **It's goodbye to goats on Egmont National Park**

After almost a century, goats have been eliminated from Egmont National Park.

This achievement was marked today with a signing of the Tomorrow Accord milestone by representatives from the Taranaki Mounnga Project and Department of Conservation (DOC).

Established in 2014 between the Crown and Taranaki Mounnga founding partner, the NEXT Foundation, the Tomorrow Accord ensures ecological transformations are protected for future generations. The Crown agrees to maintain the ecological gains achieved by restoration projects when agreed targets are reached.

The goat eradication programme will be handed back to DOC and marks the first of these targets to be met by Taranaki Mounnga and its partners.

Since 2016, the Taranaki Mounnga Project and local DOC team focused on accelerating its goat elimination programme across the 34,000 hectare national park.

An intensive and targeted ground hunting campaign was implemented which also utilised thermal imaging technology mounted on to helicopters to spot goats from the air.

The programme was completed by hunting the final remaining goats seen around the ring plain. The team also spoke with neighbouring landowners who had goats on their properties. This education piece has helped to heavily reduce the chances of goats wandering into the park.

Taranaki Mounnga Chair Jamie Tuuta is pleased this milestone has been reached.

“I want to thank the dedicated team of experienced hunters who worked in difficult terrain to achieve this goal. Also, to our communities who support our vision of a goat free national park,” says Mr Tuuta.

DOC Taranaki Operations Manager Gareth Hopkins welcomes the biodiversity gains this achievement has brought.

“The elimination of goats is a significant step toward restoring and enhancing the biodiversity on Taranaki Maunga. This is a great example of collaboration and partnership as we work together to reach this important goal.”



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Renowned botanist and University of Waikato Professor Bruce Clarkson says the positive impact on flora and fauna can already be seen.

“The reinstatement of natural regeneration processes is essential for the restoration of the mounnga,” says Prof Clarkson.

“Palatable shrubs such as kanono and toropapa can now be found in abundance on the forest floor and free of browse damage. Having a healthy shrub layer is not just important for the plants but for the birds dependent on them for fruit and nectar.”

NEXT Foundation CEO Bill Kermodé says today’s signing is a major milestone for Taranaki Mounnga, and for the Tomorrow Accord - made possible through the work of all the many people and organisations involved.

“NEXT would like to thank you all. It is also powerful affirmation that well-structured partnership between philanthropy and government can deliver legacy outcomes for the country. It will benefit our land and our people – for future generations of New Zealand,” says Mr Kermodé.

**For more information please contact:**

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