

Conservation Management - Enhancement Activity

Enhancement – aspects that improve on nature

1. Use lines to match up the intervention method with the effect of that technique

Intervention Methods	Effect of these Methods
1. Dummy Eggs	A. Used to reduce disturbance during courtship and egg laying
2. Revegetation	B. Used as a training tool for those pairs who consistently break eggs
3. Incubator	C. Hand removal of maggots before they enter the body cavities
4. Hand Rearing	D. Birds that do not succeed in their first flight and are unhurt are returned to the colony for a second try
5. Fostering	E. Mint added to the nest is effective in repelling flies about the hatching period - preventing fly strike on young
6. Flight Rescue	F. Fog spraying of water over sitting birds and surrounding vegetation to raise humidity and reduce temperature through evaporation to prevent heat stress.
7. Supplementing Nesting Material	G. Used to hold pairs at nest, after something has happened to their egg, to provide natural foster parents when needed
8. Trapping	H. Introduction of hay bales around the nest to protect very young chicks from foul weather and introduction of large screens to provide sun shade for young chicks in hot weather.
9. Security Fence	I. Used to control bronchial infections, treat fungal and bacterial infections and wounds from bites.
10. Restricted Viewing	J. Deserted eggs or chicks are placed in the nest of pairs who have lost their offspring or are better parents
11. Window Tinting	K. Chicks are hatched in an environment where the membranes are kept moist and there is no fear of fly strike
12. Banding	L. Used to control or eradicate introduced pests (blowflies) and predators (cats, mustelids) that affect the survival of the eggs and young
13. Drug Treatment	M. Removal of introduced plants like thistles, possibly decreases blowfly numbers. Introduction of native plants could increase the moisture in soil and areas of shade as well as increase the nesting material available.
14. Manual Treatment	N. Chicks feed by wildlife rangers when one or both parents do not return to the nest
15. Microhabitat Manipulation	O. Used to reduce visual disturbance to nesting birds
	P. Used to keep a reliable record of bird presence, breeding attempts, family history and immigrants to the population
	Q. Used to control access of humans and canines to the nesting area

Monitoring – regular checks to determine long term trends

Department of Conservation Rangers monitor the Royal Albatross at Taiaroa Head - **LOOK OUT THE WINDOW AND RECORD WHAT YOU SEE.**

Date:	Time:	Observer:
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Weather % cloud cover: _____ Wind direction: _____ Wind Speed: _____ Precipitation: _____ Temperature: _____
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Number & location of nests in view.	Chick age and behaviours observed	Adults present (identify colour bands) and behaviours observed

Notes (eg. other wildlife observed, traps for pest species observed):

LOOK AT THE DOC MONITORING CHART ON THE WALL AND ANSWER THE QUESTIONS BELOW...

How many pairs returned to this side of the headland to breed this year?

What are the weights of the chicks?

How old is the oldest breeding bird?

How old is the youngest breeding bird?

What animals are being trapped and why?

DOC's main objective is to increase the number of chicks fledging. Good conservation management depends on good baseline data. What are the problems associated with collecting extensive baseline data on Royal Albatross?

Research programmes in combination with the monitoring activity is very important to help the survival of the Albatross. Look around for evidence of a research project that is presently being carried out.

One of the ways that the DOC rangers monitor the health of the chicks is to weigh them - two to three times per day during the guard stage to once a week until fledging (chick permitting).

Weight the chick models to find out what the average weight is for the different stages of growth.

Albatross Growth

Age	Weight (grams)
Chick - Newborn	
Chick - 2 weeks	
Chick - 5 weeks	
Chick - 3 months	
Adult – feeding a 3 month chick	

Protection of Albatross – What would happen if?

Protection = aspects that minimise detrimental human impacts

Methods:

1. In groups of 2 or 3 people review the “What would happen if...” scenarios that you have been given. Record them in the first column of the table below and then complete the rest of the table with your ideas.
2. Report your ideas to the class during the discussion

What would happen if...	Impact	Management Techniques	How can YOU help prevent it happening or help with the management of the situation?