

Sirocco – the kākāpō ambassador

Sirocco gets on better with humans than with his fellow kākāpō – making him the ideal ambassador for Kākāpō Recovery.

Due to his uncertain start to life (he suffered a respiratory illness at 3 weeks old), Sirocco was the first male kākāpō reared by humans. This led him to identify more with us than his own kind, making him unlikely to breed.

This makes Sirocco the perfect Kākāpō Recovery ambassador. Now, people can occasionally meet a kākāpō at predator-proof ecosanctuaries around New Zealand.



Sirocco is back. Photo: Jake Osborne

Kākāpō proverb

Kākāpō	<i>Parrot of the night</i>
Mai a Rangī	<i>You came from Rangī</i>
Mai a Papatūānuku	<i>You came from Mother Earth</i>
Mai a Tāne	<i>You came from Tāne</i>
Ka puawai Rimu	<i>For the flowering of Rimu</i>
Ka hua a Kākāpō	<i>A sustenance for Kākāpō</i>
Ki te Whai ao	<i>From this world</i>
Ki te Ao mārama	<i>To the world beyond</i>
Ka here tāngata	<i>We are bound together in conserving nature</i>
Ka here whenua	<i>We are bound together in conserving land</i>
Ka tū te Pō	<i>Let night come</i>
Ka tū te Ao	<i>Let day come</i>
Tihei mauri ora	<i>Such is life</i>

Support Kākāpō Recovery!

Hundreds of people support the Kākāpō Recovery Programme with donations, services or by volunteering their time. You can also...

...adopt a kākāpō!

You can help the cause by symbolically adopting a kākāpō, for yourself or as a gift. We've selected 13 kākāpō with special qualities that make each bird unique. You'll receive exclusive updates on your kākāpō each year, and when you renew your adoption.

Your adoption directly supports the Kākāpō Recovery Programme by providing funds to keep kākāpō healthy and well fed, and to update their location transmitters.

For details about adoption, donating money or registering to volunteer, visit the **Kākāpō Recovery website**: www.doc.govt.nz/our-work/kakapo-recovery.

For news and updates, **follow us on Facebook**: www.facebook.com/KakapoRecovery.

For all other inquiries, **email Kākāpō Recovery**: kakaporecovery@doc.govt.nz.

Subscribe to the **Kākāpō Recovery newsletter**: <http://www.doc.govt.nz/subscribe-kakapo>.



DOC Ranger Theo feeding a chick. Photo: Kimberley Collins

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Kākāpō Recovery

FROM THE BRINK OF EXTINCTION



Department of
Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai



The kākāpō: unique and vulnerable

New Zealand's kākāpō (pronounced 'car-car-paw') is critically endangered – there are fewer than 200 birds left. The kākāpō evolved in isolation, so it is not closely related to other parrots and has unique characteristics. The kākāpō:

- is the heaviest parrot in the world: kākāpō males weigh up to 3.7 kg and females up to 2.2 kg
- is the world's only flightless and nocturnal parrot
- possibly live up to 90 years – making it perhaps the world's longest-lived bird.



The kākāpō lives in dense native forest. With its owl-like facial features and mossy green feathers, it relies on camouflage for defence. But its strong musty smell often gives it away, making it vulnerable to feral cats, rats and stoats.

Above – Kākāpō chicks just a few days old. Photo: Liam Bolitho

Below – The flightless kākāpō. Photo: Stephen Jaquierey



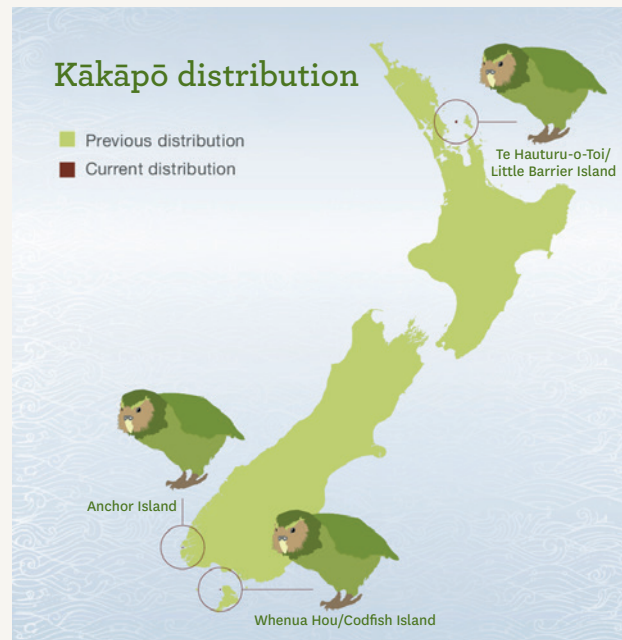
The Kākāpō Recovery Programme

Kākāpō have inhabited New Zealand for thousands of years, but their numbers rapidly declined with the arrival of humans – and the predators they introduced. By the 1970s only 18 kākāpō were known to exist – all in Fiordland and all males. The species seemed doomed.

But in 1977, kākāpō were discovered on Stewart Island/Rakiura – and females were confirmed in 1980, giving new hope for this precious bird's survival.

Since then, dedicated staff from the Department of Conservation, volunteers and partners have worked tirelessly to protect, manage and increase the kākāpō population.

Today there are breeding populations of kākāpō on the three predator-free islands shown in the graphic. Staff work year-round to keep the kākāpō safe, healthy and well fed.



Kākāpō Recovery aims to establish at least two managed populations of kākāpō and a self-sustaining population, in protected habitats, each with at least 50 breeding-age females.

Working together to save our taonga

Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much.
– Helen Keller

Working with partners, and thousands of supporters and volunteers from around the world, enables DOC and the Kākāpō Recovery Programme to achieve more for conservation than we ever could alone.



Te Rūnanga o NGĀI TAHU

The kākāpō is a taonga (treasured) species. Ngāi Tahu is kaitiaki (guardian) of the kākāpō and is DOC's Treaty partner in their management. Ngāi Tahu has strong cultural, spiritual and traditional associations with kākāpō through tikanga (custom), mātauranga (knowledge) and wairua (spirit).



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meridian

Meridian Energy is a National Partner of the Kākāpō Recovery Programme. Meridian contributes to the growth of the kākāpō population by helping DOC fund research to pioneer conservation techniques relating to genetics, nutrition and disease management.

Meridian also provides the expertise of its staff – they help with power supply engineering on Whenua Hou, for example – and champion the campaign to raise awareness of the kākāpō plight, reaching new audiences in a fun and innovative way.



Adult transmitter changes. Photo: Andrew Digby