

Battling Extinction - documentary

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¹N/A

New Zealand's last two bat species are on the downwards spiral to extinction. Unless something is done soon they will disappear forever.

The odds are stacked against them: Predators and extensive habitat damage have meant they are just holding on in tiny pockets around the country. To complicate things, myths and legends about bats have turned the public against them.

But luckily there is national bat team dedicating their time to saving New Zealand's only land mammals. If only they could reverse the negative image about bats too, they might just stand a chance at surviving into the future.

I created this film to raise awareness about endangered bats in New Zealand. Many people are not aware that we have bats in our country as they are tiny, cryptic and very rare. They have been pushed out of the conservation spotlight by our charismatic bird species such as the Kiwi, a bird that is an iconic part of New Zealand. The negative perception of the general public towards bats has led to them historically being forgotten and neglected. However now there are individuals who are passionate about their survival, and are out there spreading the word about how people can get involved. That is what I wanted to bring across with this film: how the average person can actually have a large impact in conservation with a small amount of personal effort. Citizen science is very important now more than ever in New Zealand, as the budget for conservation continues to decrease every year, even as species are disappearing right before our eyes.