

Funding Options in the Manawatu/Whanganui and beyond (updated June 2021)

Community biodiversity restoration schemes can gain financial support from a variety of sources. This page contains a list of the key funding bodies (listed in alphabetical order) supporting work in the Manawatu/Whanganui, and others that are national organisations. Please note that some funds are set on funding rounds and some have a lot of interest, but it is worth enquiring.

Community Environment Fund

Projects supported will empower the community to take practical action to improve environmental quality. Aimed at partnerships between community groups and support agencies. Administered by the Ministry for the Environment.

<https://www.mfe.govt.nz/more/funding/community-environment-fund>

DOC Community Fund - Pūtea Tautiaki Hapori

This fund supports community-led conservation projects on public and private land. The fund is directed towards practical projects aimed at conserving New Zealand's indigenous biodiversity. Projects are focused on protecting and restoring our natural habitats, halting the decline of and restoring healthy and sustainable populations of our native species.

<https://www.doc.govt.nz/doc-community-fund>

DOC also have a list of other funding opportunities for conservation and environmental projects which include links to science and research, planting and weeds, schools and young people, recreation, tourism heritage and more.

<https://www.doc.govt.nz/get-involved/funding/other-funding-organisations/>

Environmental Initiatives Fund

To assist organisations, agencies and individuals with environmental projects. One-off grants for projects which directly enhance or benefit the natural environment. Administered by Waikato Regional Council.

<https://www.waikatoregion.govt.nz/community/funding-and-scholarships/environmental-initiatives-fund/>

Environment Network Manawatu

ENM administers the Environmental Initiatives Fund to support Palmerston North-based community initiatives that improve environmental outcomes. Small Grants (up to \$500) and Large Grants (between \$500 and \$12,000) are available for projects that align with PNCC's Eco-City Strategy priorities, and any identified priorities of the network.

<https://enm.org.nz/about/resources/environmental-grants-fund>

Fonterra – Grassroots Fund

Community groups are invited to apply for grants to support projects that will help bring their communities together, and make it a better, safer, more vibrant place to live.

<https://www.fonterra.com/au/en/what-we-stand-for/community/fonterra-grassroots-fund.html>

Horizons Regional Council Funding

Horizons' Freshwater, Land and Biodiversity teams all have a variety grants that the public are able to apply for when looking to improve our Region's environment. From fencing and planting, to rejuvenating wetlands or helping to control erosive hill country they are here to help.

<http://www.horizons.govt.nz/about-our-region-and-council/grants-and-sponsorship/combined-environmental-grants>

Sustainable Land Use Initiative funding for erosion prone land. And the Whanganui Catchment Strategy funding administered by Horizons on behalf of the Whanganui River Enhancement Trust information can be found in the link below.

<https://www.horizons.govt.nz/managing-natural-resources/land>

Horizons Biodiversity grants

Our vision for this programme is to empower communities to reconnect with an improved biodiversity. It supports projects that support connections between nature and people and projects that work to restore and protect indigenous biodiversity including those that support regeneration and continuation of mātauranga Māori (Māori knowledge).

Applications would be accepted by any project that is community led, e.g. by landowners, individuals, Māori land trust, not-for-profit organisations, umbrella groups or whānau/hapū/iwi. The grants must be non-profit making.

<http://www.horizons.govt.nz/about-our-region-and-council/grants-and-sponsorship/biodiversity-grants>

Lottery Environment and Heritage Fund

Funds clearly specified one-off projects which seek to promote, protect and conserve New Zealand's indigenous flora and fauna. Priority is given to projects which involve: conservation of indigenous flora and fauna, identification and conservation of critical habitats and ecosystems, conservation of rare, endangered or threatened species in their natural habitat and enhancement of public education and awareness of issues affecting indigenous flora and fauna.

<https://www.communitymatters.govt.nz/lottery-environment-and-heritage/>

Manawatu District Council – Community funding

The Community Development Fund is designed to encourage community leadership of local solutions. This fund supports community and voluntary organisations whose outcomes directly contribute to the Community Development Strategy’s vision of “Our District offers a high quality of life for all residents”. Including being kaitiaki for our environment.

[Community Development Fund \(mdc.govt.nz\)](https://www.mdc.govt.nz)

Manawatu River Leaders Accord

Since the formation of the Accord Horizons Regional Council has run an annual community project funding process. The Manawatū River Leaders’ Accord runs a contestable community funding programme once a year with the support of Horizons Regional Council. Last year the fund was expanded with help from Manawatū District Council and the Ministry for the Environment, through the Freshwater Improvement Fund. From 2021, for the next two years there is \$110,000 of available funding for community projects. Projects must have a final deliverable date of June 2022.

Who can apply: Non-profit organisations such as community groups, schools, early childhood centres, iwi/hapu groups, and individuals or landowners are eligible for our funding.

<https://www.manawaturiver.co.nz/about/community-funding/>

Manga Iti Grants

Ngā Manga Iti is a funding opportunity established to advance and support initiatives that contribute to the health and wellbeing of the Whanganui River – Te Awa Tupua.

Te Mana o te Awa will provide up to \$5,000 to support your project.

These projects may create opportunities to explore larger, long-term projects that benefit Te Awa Tupua and Whanganui iwi.

<https://www.ngatangatatiaki.co.nz/nga-tangata-tiaki-o-whanganui-group/te-mana-o-te-awa-2/manga-iti-grants/>

Ministry of Primary Industries (MPI) Extension fund

Ministry for Primary Industries has an extension fund that enables an array of farmer-led and catchment scale programmes of work. This is generally suited to larger entities who support catchment groups or farmer-led environmental initiatives.

[Extension services for farmers | MPI | NZ Government](https://www.mpi.govt.nz/extension-services-for-farmers/)

MPI Hill Country Erosion Programme

This programme generally funds councils to deliver programmes to prevent erosion and support good land use decisions on private land.

[Hill Country Erosion Programme for councils | MPI | NZ Government](#)

Nature Heritage Fund

Contestable fund for projects that protect ecosystems on private land by direct purchase or covenant. Administered by the Department of Conservation.

<https://www.doc.govt.nz/get-involved/funding/nature-heritage-fund/>

Ngā Whenua Rāhui

Supports the protection of indigenous biodiversity on Māori-owned land while honouring the rights guaranteed to landowners under Te Tiriti o Waitangi.

<https://www.doc.govt.nz/get-involved/funding/nga-whenua-rahui/nga-whenua-rahui-fund/>

NZ Game Bird Habitat Trust

Funding for the development and enhancement of habitat for the benefit of game birds and other wetland inhabitants. Administered by Fish & Game NZ.

<https://fishandgame.org.nz/environment/protecting/protecting-nz-game-bird-habitats/the-nz-gamebird-habitat-trust>

One Billion Trees Fund

A fund from central government to support the planting of native and exotic trees.

<https://www.teururakau.govt.nz/funding-and-programmes/forestry/planting-one-billion-trees/onebillion-tree-fund/>

Pacific Development and Conservation Trust

Grants for a range of conservation, cultural, heritage, development and goodwill projects and activities in the Pacific.

<https://www.communitymatters.govt.nz/pacific-development-and-conservation-trust/>

Predator Free NZ Communities Fund

Predator Free NZ Trust looks for new backyard trapping projects to join our Predator Free Communities programme several times a year and they support the purchase of subsidised trapping equipment for communities involved in backyard trapping.

<https://predatorfreenz.org/about-us/our-programmes/predator-free-communities/>

Sustainable Food & Fibre Futures

SFF Futures invests with others in innovative projects to grow New Zealand's food and fibre industries sustainably. <https://www.mpi.govt.nz/funding-and-programmes/sustainable-food-and-fibre-futures/about-sustainable-food-and-fibre-futures/#sfff-apply>

The Tindall Foundation

The Tindall Foundation has two funding streams and makes donations in two ways – small local donations are made from \$500 to \$15,000 and must be made through the Local Donation Manger, which for the environment, is WWF-New Zealand.

<https://tindall.org.nz/environmental-donation-management/>

Transpower Community Care Fund

One-off grants for projects to community groups in areas along the existing National Grid route, as well as communities affected by new Transpower projects. Administered by Transpower.

www.transpower.co.nz/community-initiatives/communitycare-fund

Trees that Count

Managed by Project Crimson, Trees that Count are a conservation charity sponsoring native plants to permanent new forest projects. Their vision is to bring together business, community and individuals with a vision to help plant 200 million native trees across the country.

<https://www.treesthatcount.co.nz/planters/application-guide/>

Waste Minimisation Fund

Provides funding for projects that promote or achieve waste minimisation. Administered by the Ministry for the Environment.

www.mfe.govt.nz/issues/waste/waste-minimisation-fund/index.html

WWF Habitat Protection Fund

Funds local community conservation groups engaged in hands-on ecological restoration or conservation. Administered by WWF.

https://www.wwf.org.nz/what_we_do/community_funding/